

CLASS
10

CBSE



**PHYSICS
WALLAH**

15 **SAMPLE QUESTION PAPERS**

NEW PATTERN

*As per Latest **CBSE SQP** (Dated 30 July 2025)*

ENGLISH
LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

With CBSE SQP, 2024 & 2025 Solved Papers



2026
EXAMINATION

Additional Features

- **18** Cheat Sheets (Mindmap)
- **11** Most Probable Questions
- **11** Answering Templates
- **3** SQPs with Marks Breakdown

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Syllabus &
Upcoming
CBSE SQPs



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Frequently Asked Questions



Scan for More FAQs

1

Question: Has the pattern of the English paper changed in CBSE SQP 2025-26?

Answer: No, the overall structure remains the same as in 2025, with three sections: Reading (20 marks), Grammar & Writing (20 marks), and Literature (40 marks).

2

Question: Is it mandatory to pass in Theory and Practical Exams separately at Class 10th?

Answer: Qualifying marks in each subject of the external exam are 33%. However, in subject with practical works, one must obtain 33% marks in theory and 33% marks in practical separately in addition to 33% marks in aggregate, in order to qualify in that subject.

3

Question: Do examiners deduct marks for exceeding the word limit and spelling mistakes, especially in the language papers?

Answer: No marks are deducted for exceeding the word limit. Marks for spelling mistakes and other errors are deducted in the Language Papers.

4

Question: If a choice is given to attempt any one of the questions in the Board exam, can we attempt both? If yes, which answer would be considered?

Answer: The instructions given in the question paper should be followed. Attempting both the options not only takes away much of the precious time but also confuses the examiner.

5

Question: What's different in the writing section as per CBSE SQP 2025-26?

Answer: Earlier, the analytical paragraph was based on visual/factual data like charts, maps, product labels, or survey results. You had to explain the details using simple observation & description. The topics were straightforward & familiar, such as eco-friendly bags on reading habits. The focus was on reporting facts accurately without giving personal opinions.

Now in CBSE SQP 2025-26, the analytical paragraph asks you to choose one option out of two or three, such as selecting the best guest speaker or project partner. You must analyse the given excerpts or profiles & justify your choice using logic & specific criteria. This new format checks your critical thinking, comparison skills, decision-making, & how clearly you can explain your reasons based only on the input provided.

6

Question: Is there any change in the Assessment Scheme for 2025-26?

Answer: No, there is no change in the assessment scheme in 2025-26. The assessment scheme is the same as in the academic session 2024-25.

7

Question: Will questions be asked from the Board's sample paper?

Answer: Sample question papers help you know the design, pattern and types of questions. Questions in the examination may be from any part of the syllabus. So, prepare thoroughly from the entire syllabus

8

Question: How can we obtain a copy of the Answers Book of Class 10th exam?

Answer: Applicant may apply for obtaining photocopy of answer books by paying prescribed processing charges as per time frame set by the Board. For details please see our website www.cbse.nic.in at the time of declaration of results.

CBSE Board Exam 2026: Two-Exam Scheme Decoded

1. What is the major change in Class X Board exams from 2026?

Ans: Starting in 2026, CBSE will conduct two Board exams per year for Class X, one main examination and one for improvement, if desired. This aims to offer students more flexibility and reduce pressure.

2. Why are two Board exams being introduced?

Ans: This is in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes holistic assessment, focus on core competencies, and reducing rote memorization.

Two Board exams aim to eliminate the high-stress/high-stakes nature of a single final exam and provide students more opportunities to improve.

3. Can I appear for both exams in the same year?

Ans. Yes, you can appear in both exams within the same school year:

First Board Examination (Main Exam)

You must appear in the first Board Examination, as it is mandatory for all students.

Eligible categories:

- ☐ Fresh students of Class X
- ☐ Students in Compartment (2nd Chance)
- ☐ Students repeating the year (Essential Repeat)
- ☐ Students appearing for improvement of previous performance

Second Board Examination

You can appear in the second examination in the following cases:

- ☐ Improvement: For up to 3 subjects to improve your score.
- ☐ Compartment: If you were placed in Compartment in the first phase exam.
- ☐ Improvement + Compartment: You can appear for both in May.
- ☐ Improvement for the students passed by the replacement of the subject.

Note: You are not allowed to take the second examination if you didn't appear in at least 3 subjects during the first examination. In such cases, you'll fall under the "Essential Repeat" category and have to wait until the next year.

4. When will the exams be held?

Ans. First Phase Examination: 17 February to 6 March 2026

Second Phase Examination: 5 May to 20 May 2026

5. Is it mandatory to attempt the First Phase exam for all students?

Ans. Yes, it is mandatory to attempt the First Phase Exam for all Class X students. It will be treated as the main board examination.

6. Is it mandatory to attempt the Second Phase exam? Who can appear for it?

Ans. No, the May exam is not mandatory. It is an optional attempt meant for:

- ☐ Students who want to improve their scores
- ☐ Students who were absent or could not perform well in the February exam
- ☐ Students who fail in one or more subjects in the first phase

7. Will the syllabus remain the same for both first and second examinations?

Ans. Yes, the syllabus will be the same for both the first and second examinations. Both examinations will be based on the full syllabus prescribed for the academic year.

8. Is it necessary to opt for the second examination at the time of filling the LOC for the first examination to be eligible for it?

Ans. Yes, you must opt for the second examination while filling the LOC (List of Candidates) for the first examination to be eligible for it.

As per CBSE policy:

- ☐ Filling the LOC for the first examination is mandatory.
- ☐ At that time, you must indicate whether you want to appear for the second examination.
- ☐ If you don't select this option, you cannot appear in the second examination later.
- ☐ No new name will be added to the LOC of the second examination.
- ☐ After the first exam result, you can opt out, but not opt in if you didn't choose the second examination earlier.

Tip: Always opt for the second examination—just in case.

9. Can I take admission in Class XI after the first examination result?

Ans. Yes, provisional admission to Class XI is allowed after the first examination result.

- ☐ Your performance of main/first examinations will be available in DigiLocker and can be used for admission to class XI if the student does not wish to appear in second examinations for improvement.
- ☐ Students not qualified in the main examination will be allowed provisional admission in Class XI and based on the result of the second examination, their admission will be confirmed.

10. Are the dates fixed for all subjects?

Ans. Major subjects like Maths, Science, Social Science, Hindi, and English will have fixed exam days.

Examination of Regional and Foreign Languages will be done in one go on a single day.

Examination of remaining subjects will be conducted 2 times to 3 times based on the choices of the students on 2 or 3 days.

11. Can I change my subjects after LOC Submission?

Ans. No. Once the List of Candidates (LOC) is submitted, no subject changes will be allowed except permitted as per policy.

12. Will special exams be conducted in case of emergencies?

Ans. No. Special exams will not be conducted under any circumstances.

13. When will the results be declared?

Ans. Results of the first examinations will be declared in the month of April.

Results of the second examinations will be declared in the month of June.

14. What details will be shown in the final Mark Sheet cum Passing Certificate?

Ans. The Mark Sheet cum Passing Certificate will include the following:

- ☐ Marks obtained in the first examination
- ☐ Marks obtained in the second examination (if attempted)
- ☐ Marks from the Practical/Internal Assessment
- ☐ Grades for each subject
- ☐ The better of the two marks (first or second examinations) will be clearly mentioned.

15. Will I get marksheets for both exams?

Ans. You'll receive your passing documents and merit certificates after the results of second examinations. Your first attempt's performance will be available in DigiLocker for Class XI admissions.

16. If I score well in the first examination, do I still need to appear in the second one?

Ans. No. If you're satisfied with your performance, you don't need to appear again. The second exam is optional for improvement.

17. Will Practical/Internal Assessment also be conducted twice?

Ans. No, Practical/Internal Assessment will be conducted only once.

EXAM READY: ANSWERING TEMPLATES THAT SCORE

Direct Comprehension Question

Q. The writer mentions 'sustainable farming practices' in paragraph 4. Which of the following is a sustainable farming practice?

Select the correct answer:

- A) Using chemical fertilizers and pesticides extensively to increase crop yields
- B) Clearing large areas of natural vegetation to expand farmland for organic farming.
- C) Implementing crop rotation and using organic compost to maintain soil health.
- D) Relying solely on monoculture farming to maximize production efficiency.

Ans.

C) Implementing crop rotation and using organic compost to maintain soil health.

In questions involving evaluating practices, consider the environmental impact and longevity carefully.

Inference Question

Q. In paragraph 1, what does the phrase each person's effort towards conserving water can significantly impact the preservation of this vital resource' emphasize?

Ans.

The phrase emphasizes that:

_____.

It suggests that because:

_____.

Identify the key message of the phrase.

Explain why this message is important.

Vocabulary and Reference Question

Q. Identify the word that indicates that the writer anticipated a higher percentage of sponsored initiative murals.

Ans.

The word is:

_____.

Find the word that shows the writer's expectation for more sponsored murals.

Analytical Question

- Q.** List any two points that a powerful message sent to businesses and policymakers about the importance of water conservation might include.

Ans.

The two points are listed below

Point:

_____.

Point:

_____.

Write one key point about water conservation

Write another relevant point.

Reported Speech Question

- Q.** Rhea asked the following question to her colleague, Deepak. "Have you finalized the magazine content to be submitted tomorrow?" Report Rhea's question correctly.

Ans.

Reported Speech:

_____.

Convert the direct speech into indirect speech using appropriate changes in tense and pronouns.

Example: "Rhea asked Deepak if he had finalized the magazine content to be submitted the next day."

Extract-Based Question

- Q.** What effect does the experience, as described in the lines below, have on the baby seagull?

Ans.

Effect of the experience:

_____.

Choose the most suitable option based on the emotions conveyed in the lines. Consider keywords like "terror" or "scream" to understand the impact.

General Language Usage Question

- Q.** Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete an official announcement.

"Attention all prefects, please be informed that the deadline for submitting your registrations for participation in the Art Exhibition has been extended; (that/these/this) should be communicated to all students of classes IX-X."

Ans.

Select Option:

_____.

Choose the correct demonstrative pronoun that fits the context.

Example: "this"

Letter Writing

Q. You are Chhavi Pathak of Ranchi, Bihar. Write a letter in about 120 words addressing the Secretary of the City Municipal Authority. Detail the problem of overgrown trees and shrubs in the neighbourhood and request the delegation of personnel for regular pruning.

Ans.

Sender's Address and date:

Receiver's Designation and Address:

Subject: _____

Salutation:

Body of the Letter:

Introduction:

Explanation:

Request for Action:

Complimentary Close:

Signature and Name:

Write your address and date in the correct format.

Include designation and address.

Write a brief subject line.

Use a respectful greeting.

Cover the key points in the body.

State the problem briefly

Describe the issue and its impact.

Ask for a specific action.

Use a polite closing phrase.

Write your name.

Analytical Paragraph

Q. You are the Cultural Secretary of your school. Two motivational speakers — *Ms. Anjali Das* and *Mr. Vivek Rath*i — have sent letters expressing interest in speaking at your school's Annual Youth Motivation Summit. Read excerpts from their letters.

Excerpt 1 – Ms. Anjali Das

I would be honoured to speak at your school's Youth Motivation Summit. I have conducted workshops in over 50 schools and inspired hundreds of students to overcome self-doubt and set clear goals. My sessions focus on the power of positive thinking and time management. I share real-life stories of students who turned challenges into opportunities. I believe my guidance can help your students build confidence and a growth mindset.

Excerpt 2 – Mr. Vivek Rath

It would be a pleasure to motivate the students at your school. I am a former IAS officer and have delivered keynote speeches at various national youth events. I often speak about discipline, leadership, and resilience — qualities essential for success in today's world. My sessions include personal stories from my UPSC journey and how I stayed motivated. I hope to inspire students to dream big and pursue their ambitions with passion.

Analyse the information in a paragraph, justifying which motivational speaker would be a better choice for the summit. Consider factors such as relevance, experience, and potential impact on students.

* Design that is intended to maximise comfort, efficiency, and safety for the user.

Introduction:

Body:

Conclusion:

- State Your Choice Clearly
- Mention who/what you're choosing.
- Link it to the purpose of the event or situation.

- Justify Your Choice with 2–3 Reasons
- Show how your choice is relevant.
- Mention how their approach or style suits the audience (like students).
- Highlight any impact or practical benefit they bring.

- Reinforce Your Decision
- Sum up why your choice is more suitable.
- Restate the main advantage.

Theme and Character Analysis

Q. How does the ignorance about Mijbil as a creature in the urban environment of London reveal insights about people's perceptions and knowledge regarding animals?

Ans.

Introduction:

Explanation of Insight:

Conclusion:

Start by briefly introducing the context of the story or poem. Mention Mijbil and the city setting.

Describe the key insights revealed about people's perceptions or attitudes. Use examples from the story to support your answer.

Summarize the takeaway about human perceptions or behaviors towards animals. Keep it brief.

Creative Writing Question

Q. Imagine that M. Loisel, from *The Necklace* by Guy de Maupassant, writes a diary entry, exploring the theme of class and social status and the nature of social mobility in the context of his own experience. Write this diary entry as M. Loisel, in about 120 words.

Ans.

Date:

Opening Line:

Main Body:

Closing Line:

Signature:

Write the current or relevant date for the diary entry.
Example: 15th March, 1880"

Begin with a reflective statement or feeling.
Example: "Today, I cannot stop thinking about the consequences of our decisions."

Write about M. Loisel's thoughts on class, social status, and the impact of losing the necklace. Include reflections on his struggles, emotions, and realizations.
Focus on M. Loisel's experience and his understanding of social mobility.
Discuss the sacrifices made and their consequences.

End with a concluding thought or hope.
Example: "I wonder if all this would have been different had we made better choices."

Sign off as M. Loisel.

CBSE 2025: Competency-Based Format to Analytical Paragraph Writing



Scan Me for Detailed Explanations

SET-1

1. A. Your school is publishing a student editorial on “The Role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Modern Education.” The editorial explores whether AI is a boon or a burden in classrooms. Two educationists — Dr. Neelima Roy and Mr. Saurabh Thakkar — have submitted contrasting views. Read the excerpts below.

Excerpt 1 – Dr. Neelima Roy

AI tools are transforming classrooms into interactive, personalized learning spaces. With adaptive learning platforms, students get individual attention and progress at their own pace. As an education researcher, I’ve seen AI reduce the pressure on teachers by automating routine tasks and allowing more time for creative teaching. It supports students with special needs and provides real-time feedback. In today’s digital world, exposure to AI prepares students for future careers. Ignoring AI would mean denying students a powerful educational advantage.

Excerpt 2 – Mr. Saurabh Thakkar

Though AI offers convenience, I caution against its growing role in classrooms. Having taught for over 20 years, I believe learning is an emotional, human process. AI cannot replace the empathy, motivation, and moral guidance teachers provide. Over-reliance on AI may reduce students’ critical thinking and interpersonal skills. Technology should support teaching, not lead it. Many schools struggle with privacy concerns and lack proper infrastructure. AI can be helpful, but we must be careful not to let machines replace meaningful teacher-student interaction.

Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, justifying which speaker would be a better voice for the editorial. Support your opinion using information from the excerpts.

1. B. Your school is preparing for the Annual Inter-House Sports Tournament. As the Games Captain, you need to choose a reliable student leader who can serve as the Sports Captain for one of the houses. The selected person must show strong leadership, team spirit, and discipline. Based on the profiles of Yuvraj, Sneha, and Ishan, choose the most suitable student.

Yuvraj: Yuvraj is an excellent athlete who has won several medals in track and field. He is competitive and highly disciplined, always motivating others to do their best. However, he sometimes dominates decisions and doesn’t consult teammates. His strict nature has led to minor disagreements in previous team events.

Sneha: Sneha is a team player and shows strong leadership during practice sessions. She encourages team bonding and handles pressure calmly. Though she isn’t the most skilled athlete, her ability to manage emotions and resolve conflicts has impressed many teachers and teammates. She is also regular in attending practice.

Ishan: Ishan is full of energy and has played multiple sports for his house. He is enthusiastic and good at encouraging others. However, he often arrives late to practice and sometimes forgets important tasks. Teachers have noticed his need for more discipline and focus in key moments.

Write a paragraph in about 120 words, analyzing the given profiles and selecting the most appropriate candidate to be the Sports Captain.

SET-2

2. A. Your school magazine is running a debate on the best method to promote student learning and engagement. Two educators — Ms. Richa Mehra and Mr. Dev Sharma — have shared their perspectives on the topic “Outdoor Learning vs Classroom Learning”. Read the excerpts below.

Excerpt 1 – Ms. Richa Mehra

Outdoor learning allows students to connect classroom knowledge with real-life experiences. As an environmental educator, I’ve witnessed how students become more curious and enthusiastic when learning takes place outside the four walls. Nature walks, field trips, and project-based outdoor tasks foster observation, teamwork, and critical thinking. This method encourages holistic development — mental, physical, and emotional. It breaks routine monotony and reduces screen fatigue. In today’s fast-paced world, learning in natural settings revives joy, curiosity, and deeper understanding among students.

Excerpt 2 – Mr. Dev Sharma

Classroom learning provides the structure, discipline, and focus students need. With over 15 years of teaching experience, I’ve seen how the classroom environment ensures clear communication, regular evaluation, and time-bound learning. Classrooms are equipped with smart tools, boards, and internet access — enabling teachers to deliver lessons systematically. Unlike unpredictable outdoor settings, classrooms offer control, safety, and consistency. While short outdoor sessions are refreshing, deeper academic understanding is built inside classrooms through tested methods and continuous teacher-student engagement.

Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, justifying which educator would be a better voice for the magazine feature. Support your opinion using information from the excerpts.

2. B. Your school’s Art Club is planning to participate in an inter-school creative arts exhibition. As the Club President, you need to nominate a student to represent the club. The representative must be creative, committed, and able to coordinate with team members. Based on the profiles of Meera, Ayaan, and Tanvi, choose the most suitable student.

Meera: Meera is a highly creative student known for her unique ideas and award-winning paintings. She enjoys experimenting with new styles but often works alone and doesn’t share progress until the end. She avoids group activities and prefers minimal supervision, which sometimes affects collaboration.

Ayaan: Ayaan is organised and punctual. He manages time well and always completes assigned tasks. He’s not very creative but supports others by arranging materials and assisting in setups. He takes feedback positively and often encourages his teammates, making him popular among club members.

Tanvi: Tanvi is both talented and expressive. She actively takes part in group art projects and contributes fresh ideas. She is good at managing peers and resolving minor conflicts. However, she sometimes loses focus under pressure and requires reminders to stay on track with deadlines.

Write a paragraph in about 120 words, analyzing the given profiles and selecting the most appropriate candidate to represent the Art Club.

SET-3

3. A. The school library committee is reviewing whether to invest more in printed books or digital resources. Two educators — Ms. Asha Kapoor and Mr. Harsh Sinha — have shared their views on Traditional Books vs E-Learning. Read the excerpts below.

Excerpt 1 – Ms. Asha Kapoor

Printed books have stood the test of time. They offer a deeper, distraction-free reading experience, helping students improve focus and comprehension. In my experience as a librarian and language teacher, physical books promote longer attention spans and better retention. Students also feel a stronger emotional connection to books they can hold. They provide a break from screens, which is important for mental and visual health. Printed books also build a sense of discipline and routine, as students learn to borrow, handle, and return them responsibly.

Excerpt 2 – Mr. Harsh Sinha

E-learning is the smarter investment in today's digital world. It provides quick access to a vast amount of knowledge, interactive tools, and multimedia content that enhance learning. I've seen students become more independent and motivated when using educational apps and e-books. E-resources can be updated easily and accessed anytime, even from home. They also support different learning styles and offer built-in features like dictionaries, quizzes, and read-alouds. E-learning prepares students for a future where digital literacy is essential.

Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, justifying which educator's viewpoint would better benefit your school's library investment. Use relevant points from the excerpts.

3. B. Your school is preparing a project for the National Science Exhibition. As the Head of the Science Club, you are responsible for selecting a student to lead the team. The leader must be innovative, responsible, and able to manage both team coordination and presentation. Based on the profiles of Krish, Radhika, and Soham, choose the most suitable candidate.

Krish: Krish is a brilliant student with a strong interest in robotics and has won multiple science Olympiads. He is innovative and highly knowledgeable but tends to be impatient when teammates do not meet his standards. He prefers handling most of the work himself rather than delegating.

Radhika: Radhika is methodical, responsible, and great at planning and execution. She often takes the initiative and ensures everyone in the group is involved. While she isn't known for original ideas, she is excellent at implementing and refining others' concepts effectively.

Soham: Soham is energetic and enthusiastic. He is good at motivating others and making presentations engaging. He has some creative ideas but lacks consistency in following through. He needs regular reminders to complete his assigned tasks on time.

Write a paragraph in about 120 words, analyzing the given profiles and selecting the most appropriate candidate to lead the team.

SET-4

4. A. Your school's academic council is planning to adopt one exam format for the coming term. Two educationists — Dr. Meera Joseph and Mr. Rajeev Sharma — have expressed their views on online exams vs offline exams. Read the excerpts below.

Excerpt 1 – Dr. Meera Joseph

Online exams are flexible and accessible. They allow students to take tests from anywhere, saving time and resources. My work in digital learning shows that students feel more relaxed in online settings, which can improve performance. Tools like auto-grading and time tracking also help teachers manage evaluations efficiently. Moreover, online platforms can offer instant results and interactive formats that make testing less stressful. While challenges exist, with proper planning and integrity checks, online exams can modernize our examination system.

Excerpt 2 – Mr. Rajeev Sharma

Offline exams ensure fairness and discipline. As a school principal for 18 years, I've seen how physical exam settings reduce chances of malpractice and promote seriousness. Face-to-face supervision creates accountability, and writing by hand improves memory and focus. Many students struggle with network issues and distractions during online tests. Offline exams also simulate real-life competitive exams better. They maintain uniformity and prevent technical issues from affecting student performance. In my view, they provide a more structured and reliable assessment environment.

Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, justifying which educationist would be a better guide for the school's decision. Support your opinion using information from the excerpts.

4. B. Your school has been invited to participate in an Inter-School Tech Fest that includes app designing, coding challenges, and AI-based model presentations. As a member of the selection committee, you are to choose one student to represent your school. The representative must be tech-savvy, innovative, and confident in public presentation. Read the following profiles of Nikhil, Tanya, and Zeeshan and decide who is the best candidate for the role.

Nikhil: Nikhil is a skilled coder who regularly participates in hackathons. He is fast at troubleshooting and enjoys working with AI tools. However, he often struggles to explain his ideas clearly to a wider audience and avoids public speaking opportunities whenever possible.

Tanya: Tanya is an enthusiastic tech learner with experience in app development and machine learning basics. She presents ideas confidently and explains complex topics in simple terms. Though she is not the most advanced coder, she learns quickly and collaborates well in teams.

Zeeshan: Zeeshan is a logical thinker with strong programming skills and a sharp understanding of AI systems. He works well under pressure but prefers working solo and sometimes resists team inputs. He rarely participates in school-level tech events despite his potential.

Write a paragraph in about 120 words, analyzing the given profiles and selecting the most appropriate candidate to represent the school.

SET-5

5. A. Your school magazine is publishing a student editorial titled “What Matters More in School – Academics or Co-curriculars?” Two mentors — Mrs. Shalini Gupta and Mr. Ankur Bedi — shared their opinions. Read the excerpts below.

Excerpt 1 – Mrs. Shalini Gupta

Academics are the backbone of a student’s success. Strong subject knowledge builds the foundation for higher education and future careers. As a school coordinator, I’ve seen that academic performance decides college admissions and scholarships. While co-curriculars add colour to school life, they cannot replace the role of core subjects like Maths, Science, and English. Students must prioritise academics first. Once their basics are strong, they can engage in hobbies. A solid academic base ensures long-term security and opens professional opportunities.

Excerpt 2 – Mr. Ankur Bedi

Co-curricular activities are equally important for a student’s all-round growth. As a student counsellor, I’ve seen how debate clubs, sports, and theatre boost confidence, leadership, and teamwork. These skills aren’t taught in textbooks but are essential in real life. Academics teach knowledge, but co-curriculars teach expression and discipline. They also reduce stress and improve time management. Many successful professionals today say their school activities shaped their personalities. A balance is ideal, but we must not underestimate the power of non-academic learning.

Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, justifying which mentor would be a better choice to guide the editorial. Use relevant points from the excerpts.

5. B. Your school is conducting elections for the post of Student Council President. As a class representative, you are asked to recommend one candidate. The president should be responsible, a good communicator, and capable of representing students’ interests effectively. Based on the profiles of Aanya, Ritvik, and Sanika, write an analytical paragraph selecting the most suitable candidate.

Aanya: Aanya is confident, speaks fluently in both Hindi and English, and regularly participates in debates. She is approachable and listens to students’ concerns. However, she sometimes overcommits and finds it difficult to manage multiple responsibilities at once.

Ritvik: Ritvik is highly disciplined and punctual. He is respected by teachers and students alike. Though he works hard behind the scenes, he lacks the confidence to speak up during assemblies or lead large groups.

Sanika: Sanika is enthusiastic and well-organised. She manages time effectively and handles events smoothly. While she is polite and a good planner, she often avoids taking strong stands on student issues in front of teachers or the principal.

Write a paragraph in about 120 words, analyzing the given profiles and selecting the most appropriate candidate for Student Council President.

CLICK HERE

To Discover more



LITERATURE (First Flight-Prose)

CHAPTER
1

A Letter to God

—*G.L. Fuentes*

- ❑ The story is about Lencho, a farmer, who eagerly awaited rain for his crops and rain finally arrived, but it turned into a hailstorm that destroyed their cornfield.
- ❑ Despite the loss, the family held onto hope for help from God. Lencho wrote a letter asking for a hundred pesos to sow his field again and survive until the next Crop; labeled the envelope “To God” and sent the letter to the post office.
- ❑ The postmaster and employees collected money and managed to send Lencho a little more than half of what he requested to support Lencho’s faith.
- ❑ Lencho received the money but became angry.
- ❑ He wrote another letter to God, asking for the remaining money and criticizing the post office employees, calling them “bunch of crooks”.

CHAPTER
3

Two stories about flying-I (His First Flight)

—*Liam O’ Flaherty*

- ❑ The young seagull was afraid to fly, unlike his siblings.
- ❑ His parents encouraged and threatened him to fly.
- ❑ He watched them catch fish while he stayed hungry.
- ❑ Begging his mother for food, he accidentally flew when she approached with a piece of fish.
- ❑ Though scared initially, he gained confidence and joined his family, enjoying flying over the ocean.
- ❑ His family praised him and offered him food as he successfully completed his first flight.
- ❑ The story explores themes of overcoming fear, gaining independence, and trying new things.

CHAPTER
2

Nelson Mandela: Long walk to freedom

—*Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela*

- ❑ On May 10, South Africa held its first democratic government inauguration, marking the end of white rule.
- ❑ The ceremonies were held at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, which had been the symbol of white supremacy.
- ❑ International leaders and dignitaries attended the inauguration, making it the largest gathering of its kind in South Africa.
- ❑ Nelson Mandela, accompanied by his daughter Zenani, pledged to uphold the Constitution and work for the well-being of the people.
- ❑ Both the old and new national anthems were sung, symbolizing unity and reconciliation between different racial groups.
- ❑ Mandela described courage as not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.
- ❑ Mandela highlighted the obligation to both family and country, and the challenges he faced in fulfilling those obligations under apartheid.
- ❑ Mandela praised his people’s bravery in fighting apartheid and stressed love over hate, saying freedom belongs to all.

Two stories about flying-II (Black Aeroplane)

—*Frederick Forsyth*

- ❑ The narrator is flying an old Dakota aeroplane from France to England, looking forward to being with his family.
- ❑ As the flight progresses, the narrator encounters storm clouds ahead, but decides to continue rather than turning back.
- ❑ In the midst of the storm, the narrator spots another aeroplane flying nearby without lights.
- ❑ The pilot of the mysterious black aeroplane waves and signals the narrator to follow.
- ❑ Grateful for the assistance, the narrator obediently follows the black aeroplane, which turns northward.
- ❑ The black aeroplane continues leading the narrator through the storm for half an hour.
- ❑ Suddenly, the narrator emerges from the clouds and sees a runway with lights ahead, indicating an airport.
- ❑ The narrator lands safely, feeling relieved and walks away from his old Dakota.
- ❑ Upon questioning the airport staff about the other pilot, they inform the narrator that no other planes were flying that night.
- ❑ The narrator is left puzzled, as he wonders who guided him through the storm and helped him reach the airport safely.



CHAPTER 4

From the Diary of Anne Frank

—Anne Frank

- ❑ Anne, a 13 year old girl, feels lonely despite being surrounded by family and friends.
- ❑ She decides to start a diary named “Kitty” to find a true friend, as she believes paper has more patience than people.
- ❑ She begins writing about her background and recounts her family’s history and early schooling.
- ❑ She then discusses a tense school result day, where she maintains confidence in her abilities and friendships.
- ❑ Her talkative nature annoys her math teacher, Mr Keesing, who assigns her essays on topics like “Chatterbox.”
- ❑ Anne responds with humor, eventually writing a satire that stops the strict teacher from pointing her out for talking.

CHAPTER 5

Glimpses of India-I (A Baker from Goa)

—Lucio Rodrigues

- ❑ The village baker holds a significant role in Goan society.
- ❑ The influence of Portuguese culture can still be seen in Goan bread-making traditions.
- ❑ The bakers use traditional furnaces to bake their bread, and the sound of their bamboo can be heard in some places, announcing their arrival in the morning.
- ❑ Cakes and bolinhas are essential for Christmas and other festivals.
- ❑ Bread holds a special place in Goan life and culture, with people fondly remembering the Portuguese days and their famous loaves.
- ❑ Despite modernization and competition, some traditional bakers continue their family profession.

Glimpses of India-II (Coorg)

—Lokesh Abrol

- ❑ Coorg, located in the southwestern part of Karnataka state in India, is a district known for its misty hills, lush forests, and coffee plantations.
- ❑ The native inhabitants of Coorg, known as the Kodavu people, have a unique culture and tradition.
- ❑ According to legend, they are believed to be descendants of Alexander the Great’s army.
- ❑ Coffee is the main crop grown on large plantations across the region.
- ❑ Coorg offers various adventure sports such as river rafting, trekking, and camping for tourists.
- ❑ Visitors can also spot elephants, tigers, leopards, deer, and wild boars in their natural habitat.
- ❑ Madikeri serves as the district headquarters and the primary gateway to Coorg, accessible by air or rail.

Glimpses of India-III (Tea from Assam)

—Arup Kumar Datta

- ❑ Pranjol and Rajvir, two friends are traveling to Pranjol’s hometown Assam for the summer vacation.
- ❑ During their journey, they discuss about the various ‘legends’ that are known to have discovered tea.
- ❑ Pranjol is less excited about tea plantations due to his upbringing, while Rajvir finds it fascinating.
- ❑ Rajvir shares legends about tea’s discovery, including Chinese and Indian stories.
- ❑ Tea has a long history, originating in China in 2700 B.C. and reaching Europe in the 16th century.
- ❑ They arrive at Dhekiabari Tea Estate managed by Pranjol’s father.
- ❑ Rajvir impresses Pranjol’s father with his knowledge of tea, including the second-flush period from May to July.
- ❑ The chapter explores tea’s cultural significance, worldwide popularity, history, and medicinal associations.



Cheat Sheet

CHAPTER

6

Mijbil the Otter

—Gavin Maxwell

- ❑ The chapter introduces the author, Gavin Maxwell, who lives in Iraq and decides to adopt an otter named Mijbil.
- ❑ Mijbil arrives at Maxwell's house and becomes a mischievous yet endearing companion.
- ❑ Maxwell describes Mijbil's playful nature and how he creates havoc by flooding the house.
- ❑ The author describes Mijbil's mischievous behavior, such as rolling in water and nuzzling his face.
- ❑ The author also discusses the challenges of caring for an otter, including feeding him live fish and dealing with his strong odor.
- ❑ The chapter explores themes of companionship, responsibility, and the relationship between humans and animals.
- ❑ The author reflects on his own emotional attachment to Mijbil and how it changed his perspective on animals as pets.

CHAPTER

8

The Sermon at Benares (Source: Betty Renshaw *Values and Voices: A College Reader* (1975))

- ❑ Gautama Buddha, born as Siddhartha Gautama, was a prince in northern India.
- ❑ At the age of twenty-five, he encountered the sufferings of the world for the first time and was deeply moved.
- ❑ Seeking enlightenment, he wandered for seven years and eventually sat under a peepal tree.
- ❑ After seven days, he achieved enlightenment and was known as the Buddha.
- ❑ Kisa Gotami, a grieving mother was desperate to find a cure for her son. She sought help from her neighbours, but nobody could help her.
- ❑ Eventually, she learned about the Buddha and went to him, pleading to bring her son back to life.
- ❑ The Buddha asked her to bring him a handful of mustard seeds from a house where no one had lost a loved one, teaching her a valuable lesson about the universality of suffering and death.

CHAPTER

7

Madam Rides the Bus

—Vallikkannan

- ❑ Valli, a curious girl, observes her village street from her front door.
- ❑ She desires to ride the bus that passes every half an hour to the nearest town.
- ❑ Valli listens to conversations of her neighbours and bus users to learn about the bus journey.
- ❑ She plans her first bus ride wisely and saves sixty paise for the fare.
- ❑ Valli stops the bus, boards it by herself, and the conductor playfully calls her "MADAM."
- ❑ Some people are concerned, but Valli enjoys the views from the window.
- ❑ In the town, everyone gets off the bus except Valli; she declines offers for a drink due to lack of money.
- ❑ On the return journey, Valli sees a dead cow by the roadside, which saddens her.
- ❑ Valli arrives home, where her mother is talking to her aunt, unaware of Valli's solo bus ride.

CHAPTER

9

The Proposal (Play)

—Anton Chekhov

- ❑ Lomov visits Chubukov's house formally dressed to propose to Natalya Stepanovna.
- ❑ Initially, Chubukov thinks Lomov wants to borrow money, but he's delighted by the proposal.
- ❑ Natalya, wearing an apron, engages in a conversation about their land, Oxen Meadows.
- ❑ An argument erupts as both claim ownership, with Lomov citing historical and legal reasons.
- ❑ Natalya becomes increasingly angry and rejects Lomov's claim. The argument intensifies as they both assert ownership.
- ❑ Chubukov sides with his daughter, declaring the meadows belong to their family.
- ❑ Lomov challenges Chubukov's decision, leading to escalating tension and conflict.
- ❑ Amidst quarrelling over petty issues, they forget the real issue—the marriage proposal.
- ❑ However, good sense prevails in the end.



LITERATURE (First Flight-Poetry)

CHAPTER

1

Dust of Snow

—Robert Frost

- ❑ The poem starts with a crow shaking down snow, contrasting the dark crow with pure snow.
- ❑ The dust of snow from a hemlock tree symbolizes a small, beautiful, and transformative moment.
- ❑ This simple act shifts the speaker's mood, showing nature's healing power.
- ❑ The dust of snow brings redemption and rescues the speaker from a negative state of mind.
- ❑ The poem emphasizes finding joy in small moments.
- ❑ The choice of the hemlock tree, associated with poison, becomes a source of unexpected beauty.
- ❑ The overarching theme is nature's power to inspire, heal, and transform.

CHAPTER

3

A Tiger in the Zoo

—Leslie Norris

- ❑ The poem begins with a caged tiger, restricted in its movements.
- ❑ The tiger's motions are described as graceful despite its inner rage.
- ❑ It contrasts the tiger's captivity with its natural habitat, where it should be hunting near a water hole.
- ❑ The poem emphasizes the tiger's confinement in a concrete cell, separated from the jungle.
- ❑ The tiger's strength is limited by the cage's bars.
- ❑ The tiger remains indifferent to visitors and focused on its surroundings.
- ❑ The sounds of civilization, like patrolling cars, contrast with the tiger's captive existence.
- ❑ The poem ends with the tiger gazing at the stars, symbolizing its longing for freedom.

CHAPTER

2

Fire and Ice

—Robert Frost

- ❑ The poem contemplates two theories on the world's end: fire and ice.
- ❑ The speaker aligns with those who believe in a fiery end due to his experience with desire.
- ❑ However, the speaker acknowledges that hate, represented by ice, could also bring destruction.
- ❑ The poem contrasts desire and hate as powerful forces in ending the world.
- ❑ It emphasizes the destructive nature of both fire and ice, suggesting either could cause destruction.

CHAPTER

4

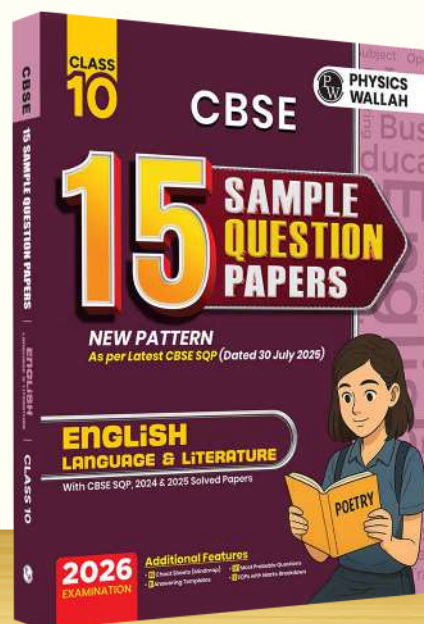
How to Tell Wild Animals

—Carolyn Wells

- ❑ The poem provides humorous rules to identify different wild animals.
- ❑ It focuses on specific animals like the Asian Lion, Bengal Tiger, Leopard, Bear, Crocodile, Hyena, and Chameleon.
- ❑ Each stanza presents distinct characteristics or behaviours that help in identifying the respective animal.
- ❑ The poem emphasizes the importance of observing specific cues or actions to differentiate between the animals.
- ❑ It uses rhyme and rhythmic patterns to create a playful and entertaining tone.
- ❑ The imagery and descriptive language add to the imaginative and whimsical nature of the poem.

Class 10 Ki Taiyaari Ho Ab Aur Bhi Aasan!

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Note: Questions in this section are selected based on repetitive themes and concepts from past examinations, though patterns and typologies may vary.

GRAMMAR

1. Read the conversations between a customer and a waiter. Complete the sentence by reporting the waiter's reply correctly: **(1 M) (2023, 2022)**

Customer: Waiter, come here. The plate is dirty.

Waiter: I'll change it sir.

The customer asked the waiter to come there. He pointed out that the plate was dirty. The waiter politely offered _____.

2. Kabir shared some information with Sahil about his travel plans. Report Kabir's plans. **(1 M) (2023, 2016, 2015)**

I will go to Tripura tomorrow.

3. Select the correct option to complete the narration of a dialogue between Raj and his wife: **(1 M) (2023, 2014)**

Raj: I have invited my friends for dinner.

Wife: I'll invite my friends too.

Raj told his wife that he had invited his friends for dinner. The wife added that _____.

- (a) she will invite her friends too
(b) she would invite her friends too
(c) she can invite her friends too
(d) she could invite her friends too
4. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction: **(1 M) (2023, 2022, 2019)**
- Latex was a natural polymer found beneath the bark of a mature rubber tree.

Use the given format for your response:

Error	Correction

5. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket: **(1 M) (2023, 2022, 2019)**

Governments are starting programmes (teach) adults how to read and write.

- (a) that teaching (b) which taught
(c) to teach (d) were teaching

6. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the slogan. **(1 M) (2023, 2020, 2018)**

..... ONLY WEAPON TO FIGHT INJUSTICE IS EDUCATION.

- (a) THE (c) AN
(b) A (d) THIS

7. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given sentence: **(1 M) (2023, 2018)**

Where were you? You be in the class at the right time.

- (a) shall (b) should
(c) will (d) would

8. Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blanks with the correct option: **(1 M) (2023, 2020)**

NO NEWS GOOD NEWS.

- (a) HAS (b) HAD
(c) IS (d) ARE

9. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the slogan: **(1 M) (2023, 2019)**

..... EDUCATED MIND CAN TEACH MANY.

- (a) THE (b) A
(c) AN (d) THIS

10. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following sentence: **(2023, 2019, 2018)**

Twenty years ago, kids at school had never even heard of the internet.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A	years	year
B	at	in
C	had	have
D	the	an

11. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given sentence: **(1 M) (2023, 2019)**

..... you help me cross the road, young man?

- (a) Will (b) May
(c) Shall (d) Might

WRITING

12. You are Rahul/Rohini, a resident of J-Block, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi. The water pipe that supplies drinking water to your area is damaged and there has not been any water supply for two days now. Write a letter, in about 120 words, to the editor of a local daily drawing the attention of the authorities towards the difficulties of the residents and asking for immediate repair of the pipe. Demand the supply of drinking water through tankers.

(5 M) (2024, 214)

13. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper about the ever increasing problems of traffic jams in 100-120 words. Give suggestions that school students and other young people to use cycles instead of scooty, bike or cars. You are Sneh/Sneha.

(5 M) (2024, 2015)

14. The authorities have been claiming that the roads in your town have been relaid and repaired. But there is no visibility of such a work. Write a letter in 100-120 words to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your disappointment at the present situation and giving suggestions to resolve the problem. You are Shweta/Sham of 24, Pushp Nagar.

(5 M) (2017, 2016)

15. You are Rohit/Reena of 1/117, Kailash Colony, Mathura. You are preparing for your X Class Board examination, but due to frequent electricity cuts, it is becoming difficult for you to concentrate. Write a letter in 100-120 words to the Editor, 'The National News' highlighting the problem.

(5 M) (2019, 2018)

16. You are Tanvi/Shirish of Safdarjung Development Area, New Delhi. You are extremely disturbed about the attacks on old people living alone. Write a letter in 100-120 words to the Editor, 'The New Indian News' making people sensitive to the problem. Make suggestions to the people living alone and the authorities to ensure that such attacks do not take place.

(5 M) (2019, 2015)

17. You are Sonia/Sunil of M-3, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi. You placed an order with Messrs Bright Publishers, Darya Ganj, Delhi for the supply of some books and stationery items. When you checked the received parcel, you found that it contained some damaged items. Write a letter to the publishers to replace the defective items at their cost. (100-150 words)

(5 M) (2022, 2020)

18. You are Rohit/Rohini of A-45, Pitampura, Delhi. You observed that the subways in Delhi are seldom used by pedestrians who are always trying to cut across traffic. You have decided to write a letter to the editor of 'Hindustan Times' highlighting the dire need of creating awareness about it. Based on the points given along with your own ideas, write a letter in 100-120 words.

- infrastructure unutilized
- pedestrians prone to accidents
- accumulation of stagnant water/garbage in subways
- need for improvement and regular cleanliness under proper supervision.

(5 M) (2023, 2017)

19. You are Shivam/Shivani of C-12, Janakpuri, Indore. You wish to make a pilgrimage to Badrinath, Kedarnath and Haridwar with your family of six. Write a letter to R.K. Travels, enquiring about the schedule of their conducted wwtour by Deluxe buses to these places. Ask about the charges, boarding and lodging arrangements and the total time needed for the tour.

(5 M) (2023, 2022)

20. Technology today is an effective and convenient means of learning.

Technology in Education

PROS	CONS
Improves engagement and retention.	Distracting
Promotes interactive collaborative learning	Reduces problem solving skills
Prepares students for the future	Reduces direct peer interaction
Reduces costs	Expensive to maintain
Promotes technological skills	Information may not be authentic
Provides current information	Communication

You are Meera/Vaibhav and would like to share your views on the pros and cons of technology in education.

Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper expressing your views in about 100–120 words. (5 M) (APQ-2023, 2023)

FIRST FLIGHT: PROSE

A Letter to God

21. Why did Lencho's happy mood change into concern?
(3 M) (2023, 2020)
22. What are the raindrops compared to and why?
(3 M) (APQ-2023, 2023)
23. What idea does the Postmaster come up with ? What did he do to stick to his resolution?
(3 M) (2024)
24. What does the postmaster's reaction to Lencho's letter reveal about his character?
(3 M) (SQP 2024)

Nelson Mandela - Long walk to freedom

25. 'No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background or his religion'. Do you agree? Elaborate on the basis of the chapter "Nelson Mandela - Long walk to freedom".

(3 M or 6 M) (SQP-2023, APQ-2023, 2023)

26. What did Nelson Mandela remember on the day of the inaugural ceremony? **(2 M) (2020, 2015)**
27. A desire is more personal whereas a vision has broader connotations. You have been asked to present an analysis of Valli's desire and Mandela's vision and how they are respectively fulfilled. Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing the approaches of both Valli and Mandela. **(6 M) (2024)**
- You may begin like this:
- One acknowledges that both, Valli and Mandela _____ however,*
- (Reference - Nelson Mandela - A Long Walk to Freedom & Madam Rides a Bus)*

Two Stories About Flying

28. "The sight of the food maddened him". What does this suggest? **(2 M or 3 M) (APQ-2023, 2020)**
29. Motivation plays an important role in taking risks in life and in succeeding. Do you agree? Discuss with reference to the pilot of the old Dakota and the young seagull. **(3M or 6 M) (APQ-2023, 2023)**
30. Describe the young seagull's first flight. **(3 M) (2024, 2023)**
31. How did the seagull's parents try to make him fly? **(2 M or 4 M) (2019, 2016)**
32. **Read the extract given below the questions and attempt that follow:**
- Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black. It was impossible to see anything outside the aeroplane. The old aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air. I looked at the compass. I couldn't believe my eyes: The compass was turning round and round, it was dead and would not work! The other instruments were suddenly dead, too. I tried the radio. "Paris Control? Paris Control? Can you hear me?" There was no answer. The radio was dead too. I had no radio, no compass, and I could not see where I was. I was lost in the storm. **(3 M or 5M) (2023, 2015)**
- (i) As soon as the pilot was inside the cloud
 (a) his ears got blocked.
 (b) he choked with fear.
 (c) his vision was obstructed.
 (d) he was jumping up and down.
- (ii) The devices in the aeroplane were
 (a) malfunctioning.
 (b) broken completely.
 (c) giving wrong readings.
 (d) stopped responding completely.
- (iii) The Paris air control did not reply to the pilot's call because
- (iv) Select the option that correctly captures the application of the word 'twisted' as used in the extract.

- (a) Ragini **twisted** Raghav's wrist.
 (b) Ragini **twisted** the story to suit the occasion.
 (c) Ragini did not appreciate Raghav's **twisted** bent of mind.
 (d) Ragini matched the swimmer as he **twisted** twice in the air before diving into the water.
- (v) Fill in the blank with ONE WORD only:
 The narrator's comes through clearly when he sees the compass turning round and round.

From the Diary of Anne Frank

33. How did Kitty help Anne overcome her loneliness? **(2 M or 10 M) (2019, 2016)**
34. You have been chosen to present your evaluation on "Sometimes we learn many things from the act of punishment." Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words in reference to the lesson 'From the diary of Anne Frank'. **(6 M) (2020, 2016)**

Glimpses of India

35. Who are paders and why are they friends of children? **(2 M or 3M) (2023, 2017)**
36. How is the Coorgi tradition of courage and bravery recognised in modern India? **(2 M) (CBSE QB, 2019)**
37. Why is Coorg called the land of the rolling hills? **(2 M) (2022, 2020)**
38. Which season is the best to visit Coorg? **(2 M) (2015, 2014)**
39. What legends are associated with the origin of tea? **(2 M) (CBSE QB, 2016)**
40. What do the elders in Goa still love to remember? **(2 M or 3 M) (2022, 2017)**
41. What excited Rajvir? Why did Pranjol not share his excitement? **(2 M) (CBSE QB, 2018)**
42. How is the Goan baker still an important part of the life of a Goan village? **(3 M) (SQP-2023, 2023)**
43. Read the given extracts and answer the questions **(5 M) (2024)**
- The train pulled out of the station - Pranjol buried his nose in his detective book again. Rajvir too was an ardent fan of detective stories but, at the moment he was keener on looking at the beautiful scenery. It was green, green everywhere. Rajvir had never seen so much greenery before. Then the soft green paddy fields gave way to tea bushes. It was a magnificent view. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills a sea of tea bushes stretched as far

as the eye could see. Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall, sturdy, shade-trees and amidst the orderly rows of bushes busily moved doll-like figures.

- (i) State any one inference about Rajvir from the given context: **1**
“Rajvir too was an ardent fan of detective stories, but at the moment he was keen on looking at the beautiful scenery.”
- (ii) State True or False: **1**
The reason Rajvir was interested in looking at the beautiful scenery was that the detective book he was reading, was not interesting.
- (iii) People who live in big cities are always fascinated by the natural beauty and abundant greenery. Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract. **2**
- (iv) Which phrase would correctly substitute ‘doll-like figures’, in the given sentence from the extract? **1**
Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall sturdy shade-trees and amidst the orderly rows of bushes busily moved doll-like figures.

Mijbil the Otter

44. What happened when Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom? What did it do two days after that? **(3 M or 8 M) (2019, 2015)**
45. What things does Mij do which tell you that he is an intelligent, friendly and fun loving animal who needs love? **(2 M or 8 M) (2020, 2014)**

Madam Rides the Bus

46. Whenever we want to achieve something, difficulties always come in our way. What did Valli have to do to go and ride in a bus? **(4 M or 8 M) (2020, 2017)**
47. Valli was an extra-ordinary girl who had self-confidence and courage to realise her ambition by planning and drawing on her spirit of adventure. Discuss in reference to the chapter ‘Madam Rides the Bus’. **(4 M or 6 M) (2023, 2022)**
48. How did Valli gather the details of the bus journey? **(3 M or 4 M) (2023, 2022)**
49. “Never mind,” she said, “I can get on by myself.” “You don’t have to help me,” said Valli to the conductor. She shows extraordinary courage in making the bus journey all alone. Taking inspiration from Valli’s character, write how ability and courage to take risk are essential to fulfill one’s dream. **(2 M or 4 M) (2017, 2015)**
50. What was the most fascinating thing that Valli saw on the street? **(2 M) (2019, 2016)**

The Sermon at Benares

51. Through ‘The Sermon at Benares’, the Buddha preached that death is inevitable and we need to overcome the suffering and pain that follows. Based on your reading of the lesson, write how one should cope with the death of a loved one. **(2 M or 4 M) (2019, 2015)**
52. What lesson on death and suffering did the Buddha teach Kisa Gotami in the chapter, ‘The Sermon at Benares’? **(2 M or 8 M) (2020, 2018, 2015)**
53. What did Kisa Gotami do after the death of her only son? **(2 M or 3 M) (2023, 2022)**
54. ‘As ripe fruits are in danger of falling early, so mortals when born are always in danger of death’. With this statement of the Buddha finds out the moral values that Kisa Gotami learnt after the death of her child. **(2 M or 4 M or 6 M) (2023, 2022, 2016, 2014)**
55. Both the texts, ‘For Anne Gregory’ and ‘The Sermon at Benares,’ grapple with the idea that external attributes are fleeting and subject to decay. Examine the similarities. **(6 M) (SQP 2024)**

The Proposal

56. Russian society emerges as an important character in the play, ‘The Proposal’. Support your answer giving instances. **(4 M) (2022)**
57. Why does Chubukov suspect Lomov when he comes to his house? **(2 M) (2016)**
58. How did Chubukov react when Lomov asked for the hand of his daughter in marriage? **(2 M or 3 M) (2023, 2022)**
59. Chekov has used humour and exaggeration in the play to comment on courtship in his times. Illustrate with examples from the lesson, ‘The Proposal.’ Also mention the values, you think, any healthy relationship requires. **(4 M) (2016, 2015)**

FIRST FLIGHT: POETRY

Dust of Snow

60. You have been asked to present an evaluation of the role that nature plays in positively impacting the lives of individuals in the chapters “Coorg” and “Dust of Snow.” Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing how nature serves as a source of inspiration or transformation in both chapters. **(6 M)**
61. Both poems ‘Dust of Snow’ and ‘Fire and Ice’ use contrasting elements of nature to convey their respective messages about life and human emotions but they do it differently. Examine these differences. **(6 M)(SQP 2024)**

Fire and Ice

62. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

*But if it had to perish twice
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice*

(5 M) (SQP-2023)

- (i) Fill the blank with one word.
When the speaker says that ice could also bring about the end of the world he refers to _____, as the means for destruction.
- (ii) What does the speaker's alignment with those who favour ice, suggest?
- (iii) Which of the following best describes the speaker's attitude towards destruction caused by ice?
(a) Indifferent (b) Fearful
(c) Dismissive (d) Respectful
- (iv) Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines.

A Tiger in the Zoo

63. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

*He stalks in his vivid stripes
The few steps of his cage,
On pads of velvet quiet,
In his quiet rage.
He should be lurking in shadow,
Sliding through long grass
Near the water hole
Where plump deer pass.*

(5 M) (2024, 2023, 2016)

- (i) 'Quiet rage' refers to the tigers
(a) helplessness
(b) he has not been able to hunt
(c) his prey has not come to the water hole
(d) he is not free
- (ii) He is lurking in the shadows because
- (iii) Complete the sentence appropriately:
It is clear that metaphor is the poetic device used for 'pads of velvet' because
(clue-explain how metaphor applies here).
- (iv) Find a word from the extract which means- to walk with measured, stiff or haughty strides:
(A) steps
(B) lurking
(C) pads
(D) stalk

- (v) State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE:
The tiger is stealthily waiting for the deer to come to the water hole.

How to Tell Wild Animals

64. You have been asked to present an evaluation of the contrasting lifestyles in 'Glimpses of India' and the humor in 'How to Tell Wild Animals'. Write this presentation draft, including your insights, in about 120-130 words, comparing these two very different pieces. (6 M)
65. Read the given extracts and answer the questions: (5 M) (2024)

*The true Chameleon is small
A lizard sort of thing;
He hasn't any ears at all,
And not a single wing,
If there is nothing on the tree,
'Tis the Chameleon you see.*

- (i) Fill in the blank with one word: 1
When the speaker says "If there is nothing on the tree, 'Tis the Chameleon you see", he refers to _____ as characteristic trait of a true Chameleon.
- (ii) What does the speaker mean when he says, "A lizard sort of thing"? 1
- (iii) Which of the following best describes the speaker's disposition while describing the Chameleon? 1
(A) indifferent
(B) playful
(C) dismissive
(D) respectful
- (iv) Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines. Answer in about 40 words. 2

The Ball Poem

66. Why does the poet not offer the boy money to buy another ball? (2 M) (2020, 2018)
67. You have been invited to speak at a community gathering about the themes of loss and acceptance depicted in "The Sermon at Benares" and "The Ball Poem." Prepare your speech draft in not more than 120 words, elaborating on how both works offer insights into dealing with loss and moving forward in life. (6 M)

Amanda!

68. 'Amanda is alone but not lonely in the world she envisions.' Give instances from the poem to justify. (2 M or 3 M) (2024, 2022)

CBSE SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER

(Issued by CBSE on 30th July, 2025)

Class-X Session: 2025-26

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (184)

Time : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

General Instructions:

Read the instructions carefully and follow them:

1. This question paper comprises **11** questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. The question paper contains **THREE** sections-
Section A – Reading Skills
Section B – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
Section C – Literature Textbook
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each Part.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS

(20 marks)

1. Read the following passage.

(10)

1. The growing preference for indigenous craft items is a welcome trend in today's globalised world, where mass-produced goods often dominate markets. These handcrafted products, rooted in the cultural and artistic traditions of their regions, offer more than just aesthetic appeal. They symbolise sustainability, support local economies, and preserve the heritage of diverse communities.
2. One of the primary reasons for choosing indigenous crafts is their eco-friendliness. Unlike factory-made products, most traditional crafts are created using natural, locally sourced materials. Artisans often employ time-tested methods that minimise waste and avoid harmful industrial processes. For example, pottery made from local clay, handwoven textiles using organic dyes, and bamboo-based crafts all have a much lower environmental footprint compared to their machine-made counterparts. By opting for these items, consumers indirectly contribute to reducing pollution and promoting sustainable practices.
3. Supporting indigenous crafts also strengthens local economies. Many artisans depend solely on their craft for livelihood, often working in small communities where opportunities for other forms of employment are limited. When people purchase their products, it provides a direct income to these artisans, empowering them and encouraging their craftsmanship. Initiatives like fair trade further ensure that artisans receive fair wages, fostering economic stability within their communities.
4. Moreover, indigenous craft items help preserve cultural heritage. Every handcrafted product carries a story—a glimpse into the traditions, beliefs, and skills passed down through generations. In India, whether it's paintings, terracotta jewellery, sculptures, athangudi tiles, mud work frames or many others, each item reflects the unique identity of its region. By choosing these crafts, people not only appreciate the artistry but also help keep these traditions alive in an era where cultural homogenisation threatens diversity.

5. In addition to their economic and cultural value, indigenous crafts add a personal touch to homes and wardrobes. Unlike mass-produced items, which often lack individuality, handcrafted products are unique. Each piece bears the imprint of the artisan's effort, creativity, and dedication, making it special for the buyer.
6. However, the preference for indigenous crafts requires sustained efforts to thrive. Governments, organisations, and consumers all have roles to play. Policies that promote local craftsmanship, provide training to artisans, and create global platforms for showcasing their work can boost the visibility and demand for these products. Consumers, too, must actively seek out and invest in handmade crafts rather than opting for cheaper, factory-made alternatives. Choosing indigenous craft items is a meaningful step toward a more sustainable and culturally enriched world.

Created for academic usage / 403 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- I. Why is the growing preference for indigenous craft items described as a 'welcome trend' in paragraph 1? 1

Ans. because it counters the dominance of mass-produced goods, supports sustainability, and helps preserve cultural and artistic traditions.

- II. According to paragraph 1, the indigenous craft items have all of the following qualities EXCEPT being: 1

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. handcrafted products | B. rooted in artistic traditions |
| C. aesthetic in appeal | D. easily accessible |

Ans. (D) easily accessible

- III. Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets. 1

The usage of locally sourced materials makes the indigenous crafts _____ (traditional / eco-friendly). (Paragraph 2)

Ans. eco-friendly

- IV. Select the option that is True from (A)-(C) given for what the phrase, 'time-tested methods' suggests in paragraph 2. 1

- A. Artisans use traditional techniques that have been refined and proven effective over generations
- B. Artisans use outdated practices that are no longer relevant in today's commercial markets.
- C. Artisans follow techniques that prioritise speed and mass production over craftsmanship.

Ans. (A) Artisans use traditional techniques that have been refined and proven effective over generations

- V. Complete the analogy by selecting one of the two correct options (a),(b) 1

fair trade: fair wages:: _____ : _____ (Paragraph 3) 2

- (a) employment: job security
- (b) mass production : reduced prices

Ans. (a) employment : job security

[(a) is correct. Just as fair trade ensures fair wages, employment aims to provide job security and both relationships focus on fairness and stability. Mass production often prioritises efficiency and cost reduction, sometimes at the expense of fairness, environmental responsibility, or the well-being of workers. Thus, (b) does not match the context of the analogy.]

- VI. Why is supporting indigenous crafts considered an effective way to improve the economic conditions of small communities? 2

Ans. Supporting indigenous crafts improves the economic conditions of small communities by providing artisans with a stable source of income. This empowers them to sustain their livelihoods and encourages the continuation of their craftsmanship. Additionally, it reduces economic challenges in areas where other employment opportunities are limited, creating a positive cycle of growth within these communities.

- VII. What are the main ideas of paragraph 4 and paragraph 5? 1

- (i) Choosing indigenous crafts helps preserve cultural heritage
- (ii) Handcrafted products lack individuality.
- (iii) Indigenous crafts reflect the artisan's creativity.
- (iv) Indigenous crafts promote uniformity by erasing regional differences in artistic traditions.

(v) Cultural homogenisation encourages people to choose indigenous crafts over mass-produced goods.

Select the correct option.

Options	Main idea of paragraph 4	Main idea of paragraph 5
A.	(ii)	(iv)
B.	(v)	(ii)
C.	(i)	(iii)
D.	(iv)	(ii)

Ans. (C) (i) - (iii) [Paragraph (iv) emphasises the preservation of cultural heritage (i), while paragraph 5 highlights the uniqueness and creativity reflected in indigenous crafts (iii).]

VIII. Why is it important for consumers to take an active role alongside government and organisations in sustaining indigenous crafts? (Paragraph 6) **2**

Ans. While governments and organisations can create supportive policies and platforms, consumers play a crucial role in driving demand for indigenous crafts. Without consumer interest and investment, these efforts may fail to translate into tangible benefits for artisans. Consumers' choices directly impact the visibility and survival of handmade crafts, making their active participation essential for creating a sustainable market and preserving cultural heritage.

2. Read the following passage.

(10)

1. A recent study conducted across two age groups—students aged 10–12 and 13–16—explored their preferences for ballpoint and micro-tip pens for various writing activities such as note-taking, examinations, and personal writing. The study aimed to understand trends in writing habits and the factors influencing pen selection among students.
2. The results revealed distinct patterns based on age groups and writing purposes. Among students aged 10–12, 65% preferred ballpoint pens for note-taking, citing ease of use and affordability as key factors. However, 35% opted for micro-tip pens, valuing their precision and smooth writing. For examinations, ballpoint pens were the overwhelming choice, with 78% favouring them for their speed and reliability, while 22% stuck with micro-tip pens, appreciating their fine control.
3. In the 13–16 age group, preferences shifted slightly. For note-taking, 60% favoured micro-tip pens, highlighting their ability to produce neat, legible notes, while 40% continued to use ballpoint pens. During examinations, however, 70% still relied on ballpoint pens, indicating their consistency under time constraints. When it came to personal writing, such as journalling or creative tasks, 58% in this group chose micro-tip pens, appreciating the aesthetic appeal of finer lines, while 42% stuck with ballpoint pens for their convenience.
4. These findings point to the importance of understanding age-specific preferences and task requirements, enabling manufacturers to innovate products. Manufacturers could further explore incorporating hybrid features, such as pens offering the speed of ballpoint pens with the precision of micro-tip pens, to cater to a wider range of student preferences.

Created for academic usage / 250 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above

I. Why did the study most likely focus on the two specific age groups of 10–12 and 13–16? (Paragraph 1) **1**

This is so because these age groups ____.

- A. represent the largest population of growing students. B. are when students develop and refine their writing habits.
C. were the easiest to survey across various schools. D. have a natural preference for ballpoint pens.

Ans. (B) are when students develop and refine their writing habits.

[Option B is the most likely because the study aims to explore writing preferences, which are likely to evolve during these developmental stages.]

II. Identify the phrase in paragraph 1 that conveys the writer's reference to the patterns or preferences observed in how students use pens for various writing tasks. **1**

Ans. 'trends in writing habits'

III. Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets. (Paragraph 2) **1**

Geetha, aged 11, wishes to complete her practical file neatly, ensuring her work is legible and appealing. She is most likely to choose a micro-tip pen for this task because the _____ (speed / precision) offered by this type of pen helps produce tidy work.

Ans. precision

IV. What does the writer mean by 'affordability' while citing the high percentage of ball point pen usage? (Paragraph 2) **1**

Ans. By 'affordability,' the writer refers to the lower cost of ballpoint pens compared to micro-tip pens, making them accessible and budget-friendly for students.

V. Complete the following with the correct option. **1**

When the writer says 'distinct patterns' in the line 'The results revealed distinct patterns based on age groups and writing purposes,' of paragraph 3, s/he means that _____.

- A. students in both age groups use pens in the same way for all the listed purposes.
- B. the preferences for pens varied according to the students' age and the type of writing task.
- C. only micro-tip pens were popular across all writing tasks in the 13-16 age group.
- D. students of all age groups preferred ballpoint pens for completing creative writing tasks.

Ans. (B) The preferences for pens varied according to the students' age and the type of writing task.

VI. Complete the following appropriately. **1**

The one likely reason why more than 40% of students still chose ballpoint pens for creative tasks, even though micro-tip pens are better suited for such activities is _____.

(Paragraph 3)

Ans. Ballpoints do not dry out quickly unlike micro-tips / Ballpoints work on a variety of surfaces unlike microtips / Ballpoints are less likely to smudge unlike microtips/ Ballpoints pens are usually more affordable

VII How are 'aesthetic appeal' and 'finer lines' connected? (Paragraph 3) **1**

Ans. The 'aesthetic appeal' is closely connected to 'finer lines' because finer lines create neat, elegant, and visually pleasing writing.

VIII. Elaborate how hybrid features in pens would lead to a commercially viable product. (Paragraph 4) **2**

Ans. Hybrid features in pens, such as combining the speed and reliability of ballpoint pens with the precision and aesthetic appeal of micro-tip pens, would likely result in a commercially viable product as such pens would cater to a broader demographic, meeting the needs of students across different age groups and writing tasks. This would capitalise on the growing demand for versatile and functional writing tools. Which would enhance its commercial success.

IX. Fill in the blank with ONE suitable word. (Paragraph 4) **1**

Understanding age-specific preferences helps manufacturers design products that cater to the unique needs of different age groups, ensuring their products are both _____ as well as appealing.

Ans. functional/ useful

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR

(20 marks)

GRAMMAR

10

3. Complete **any ten** of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. **10 × 1 = 10**

I. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket for the given portion of a market research: **1**

The special subscriptions of newspapers are well _____ (illustrate), to make reading interesting for school students.

Ans. illustrated

II. Identify the error and write the correction in the given sentence from a life skills' book. **1**

The road to success is not the bed of roses.

Use the given format.

Error	Correction

Ans. Error – the ; Correction - a

III. Fill in the blank with the correct form of verb given in the brackets. **1**

I'm so happy to see my plants again! They _____ (grow) so much since I last saw them.

Ans. have grown

IV. Read the given statement. 1

They said to the guide, "We'd love to come here again next year."

Report it correctly by completing the following.

They told the guide that _____.

Ans. ...they would love to go there again the following year

V. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the conclusion of a letter of placing order. 1

There would be no compromise _____ the quality of items supplied.

A. regards

B. regard

C. regardless

D. regarding

Ans. (D) regarding

VI. Report the following by completing the sentence correctly. 1

"Don't try mending the trousers yourself," she warned him.

She warned him _____.

Ans. ...not to try mending the trousers himself

VII. Complete the given opinion by filling the blank with correct option. 1

The experience of watching the movie left me _____ grateful for knowing the importance of being empathetic to others.

A. having felt

B. feeling

C. felt

D. feels

Ans. (B) feeling

VIII. The given question has an error. Select the option that correctly identifies the error and the correction. 1

Which kind of person does something like that?

No.	Error	Correction
A.	Which	What
B.	kind	kinds
C.	something	somethings
D.	that	this

Ans. Error -Which ; Correction - What

IX. Report the following question. 1

She said to her sister, "Are you joining us for lunch today?"

Ans. She asked her sister if she was joining them for lunch that day.

X. Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given in the brackets. 1

Everyone is saying that Farhana's chances are bright in the upcoming tournament and she _____ (must / may) become the youngest football player ever.

Ans. may

XI. Fill in the blank to complete the sentence in a teacher's diary by choosing the correct option. 1

_____ student in the class submitted their assignment on time.

A. All

B. One

C. Every

D. A

Ans. (C) Every

XII. Choose the correct option to fill the blank. 1

I looked inside the bucket and saw there was _____ water in it, so they had to add more to use.

A. little

B. any

C. few

D. least

Ans. (A) little

Note: All details presented in the questions in writing section are imaginary and created for assessment purposes.

4.	<i>Format-1</i>	<i>Content-2</i>	<i>Organisation of ideas-1</i>	<i>Accuracy-1</i>	$1 \times 5 = 5$
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- A. As Vaibhav, the Club in-charge of your school's Ecology Club, you strongly believe in the importance of starting Eco-Clubs in schools in the rural areas surrounding your city to promote the preservation and conservation of nature. Write a letter to the Education Secretary of your city, in about 120 words, highlighting the significance of ecological awareness and suggesting the need to establish Eco-Clubs in these schools. 5

Ans. (The response may be created from the following content points)

- Significance of Ecological Awareness:
 - the role of ecological awareness in protecting natural resources.
 - how it can foster responsible environmental behaviour in students from an early age.
 - the need for collective action to address pressing environmental issues such as deforestation, pollution, and loss of biodiversity.
- Proposal to Start Eco-Clubs in Rural Schools:
 - establishing Eco-Clubs in rural schools to engage students in practical environmental activities.
 - how these clubs can organise tree plantations, cleanliness drives, and awareness campaigns.
 - the educational benefits of Eco-Clubs in building future environmentally conscious citizens.
- Support and Resources Needed:
 - Request support from the Education Department in the form of resources, funding, and guidance to set up and run the Eco-Clubs.
 - Propose collaborations with NGOs or environmental organizations to support these initiatives.

OR

- B. As Amitha, the Vice Head Girl of Vidya Mandir, you are aware of the increasing prevalence of cyber-attacks and unauthorised exploitation of systems, networks, and technologies affecting individuals across all demographics. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily in about 120 words, stressing the urgent need to promote digital security among all age groups. Highlight the challenges posed by cyber threats and propose practical solutions to address this growing issue. 5

Ans. (The response may be created from the following content points)

- Challenges Posed by Cyber Threats:
 - the risks of identity theft, financial fraud, and data breaches.
 - the vulnerability of children, the elderly, and untrained individuals to phishing scams, malware, and online predators.
 - how ignorance about digital security increases the impact of these threats.
- Urgent Need for Digital Security Awareness:
 - the importance of educating people about safe online practices and promoting digital hygiene.
 - the role of schools, workplaces, and community organisations in spreading awareness.
- Proposed Practical Solutions:
 - digital literacy programmes for all age groups.
 - organising workshops, webinars, and public awareness campaigns on topics like strong password creation, recognising scams, and safe browsing habits.
 - the implementation of stricter cybersecurity policies by authorities.
- Call to Action:
 - use of the platform of the national daily to raise awareness about digital security.
 - the need for collaborative efforts between individuals, organisations, and the government to tackle this issue effectively.

5.	Format-1	Content-2	Organisation of ideas-1	Accuracy-1	1 × 5 = 5
<i>Note:</i> ☐ No title ☐ Analytical writing doesn't require a 'correct' answer. All perspectives are valid as long as the reasoning is strong and evidence is used effectively. ☐ The writer must address the strengths of their chosen candidate and contrast them with the other candidate/s' qualities to highlight why their choice is better, in order for it to be considered an analysis. ☐ A recommended approach would be to know the specific needs of the event/audience and match them with the strengths of the candidate/s, ensuring a logical / audience-focused approach.					

- A. You are the President of the Debate Society in your school. Two guest speakers --Mr. Rajan Sharma and Ms. Meera Kapoor, have written to express their interest in participating in your upcoming debate competition. Below are excerpts from their letters.

5

Excerpt 1:

...I am thrilled to express my interest in participating as a guest speaker at your school's debate competition. With over 10 years of experience as a public speaker and debate coach, I have guided numerous students to success in national-level competitions. My approach focuses on encouraging critical thinking and fostering a passion for debating. I have previously spoken at various schools and universities, often receiving positive feedback for my engaging sessions and practical insights. I believe my experience and knowledge can inspire and empower your students to excel in debating.

Best regards

Mr. Rajan Sharma

Excerpt 2:

...It would be a privilege to participate as a guest speaker at your school's upcoming debate competition. I have participated in international debate forums and have won accolades for my arguments on global and social issues. My strength lies in connecting with young audiences and making debates relevant to real-world scenarios. I also emphasise how debating can improve public speaking, confidence, and interpersonal skills. I look forward to sharing my journey and experiences with your students to inspire them to use debating as a tool for personal growth.

Yours sincerely

Ms. Meera Kapoor

Analyse the information in a paragraph, justifying which guest speaker would be a better choice. Consider factors such as experience, relevance to the topic, and audience engagement.

Ans. Option 1:

Based on the letters from Mr. Rajan Sharma and Ms. Meera Kapoor, Ms. Kapoor emerges as the better choice for the guest speaker at the school's debate competition. While both candidates are experienced and skilled, Ms. Kapoor's international accolades and ability to connect debating with real-world scenarios give her a distinct edge. Her focus on making debates relevant to global and social issues aligns well with the interests of high school students, offering them a broader perspective. Although Mr. Sharma has significant experience as a coach and speaker, his approach appears more focused on techniques rather than engaging students with relevant and inspiring real-world examples. Moreover, Ms. Kapoor's emphasis on personal growth through debating resonates with the developmental needs of students. Her global exposure and relatability make her the ideal speaker to inspire and connect with the audience effectively.

Option 2:

Based on the letters from Mr. Rajan Sharma and Ms. Meera Kapoor, Mr. Rajan emerges as the better choice for the guest speaker at the school's debate competition. With over 10 years of experience as a debate coach and public speaker, Mr. Sharma brings unmatched expertise in nurturing critical thinking and fostering a passion for debating among students. His track record of guiding students to success in national-level competitions demonstrates his ability to deliver practical insights and techniques that directly contribute to debate performance. While Ms. Kapoor's global exposure and focus on real-world relevance are commendable, Mr. Sharma's hands-on experience in coaching students and making them competition-ready seems more aligned with the goals of the Debate Society. Additionally, his experience with school and university-level events ensures that he understands the aspects of connecting with high school audiences.

- B.** Jaspreet, class X, is known for her creativity, excellent communication skills, and ability to think outside the box. However, she sometimes struggles with time management and prefers collaborative efforts over working solo. She has been assigned an art-integrated project presentation and must choose a partner from Sunaina, Tabassum, and Alice. Below are the profiles of the three candidates. 5

Sunaina: Sunaina is highly disciplined and excels in meeting deadlines. She is known for her strong organisational skills and ability to handle multiple tasks efficiently. However, she is slightly reserved and prefers working in structured, predictable environments.

Tabassum: Tabassum is enthusiastic and spontaneous, with a talent for generating unique ideas. She is an excellent artist and thrives in creative settings. However, she occasionally struggles to stay focused on tasks and complete them on time.

Alice: Alice is confident and articulate, with a flair for delivering polished presentations. She is detail-oriented and ensures that the final product is of high quality. However, she sometimes prefers to take control and may overlook collaborative efforts.

Based on the features of each candidate, analyse and decide who would be the best partner for Jaspreet. Consider aspects such as complementary strengths, teamwork, and the project's requirements.

Ans. Option 1:

Sunaina emerges as the most appropriate partner for Jaspreet in the art-integrated project presentation as her qualities balance those of Jaspreet's. Jaspreet's creativity and communication skills make her an excellent presenter and idea generator, but her struggles with time management require a partner who can complement her weaknesses. Sunaina's strong organisational skills and discipline ensure that tasks are completed on time and deadlines are met, which is crucial for the success of the project. Although Sunaina is slightly reserved, her preference for structure and predictability aligns well with Jaspreet's collaborative working style, as Jaspreet can take the lead in brainstorming and presenting ideas while Sunaina ensures everything stays on track. While Tabassum is highly creative and spontaneous, her difficulty in staying focused may amplify Jaspreet's challenges with time management, making her less suitable. Alice, on the other hand, excels in polished presentations, but her tendency to dominate and prioritise control may conflict with Jaspreet's collaborative preferences.

Option 2:

Tabassum would be the best partner for Jaspreet in the art-integrated project presentation as her qualities balance those of Jaspreet's. Jaspreet thrives on creativity and collaboration, and

Tabassum's enthusiastic and spontaneous personality would complement Jaspreet's innovative thinking. As an excellent artist, Tabassum brings a unique skill set to the project, particularly in the visual and design aspects, which are crucial for an art-integrated presentation. Together, their combined creativity would result in an engaging and visually appealing final product. Although Tabassum occasionally struggles with focus and timely completion of tasks, this can be mitigated by Jaspreet's strong communication skills and preference for teamwork, allowing them to motivate and support each other effectively. In contrast, Sunaina's overly structured and predictable working style may stifle Jaspreet's free-flowing creativity. Similarly, Alice's tendency to take control might conflict with Jaspreet's collaborative approach.

Option 3:

Alice would be the most suitable partner for Jaspreet in the art-integrated project presentation as her qualities balance those of Jaspreet's. While Jaspreet excels in creativity and collaboration, her struggles with time management can be addressed by Alice's confidence, detail-oriented approach, and ability to deliver polished presentations. Alice's strength in ensuring a high-quality final product complements Jaspreet's talent for generating unique ideas, creating a balance between creative input and execution. Her confidence in public speaking would enhance the presentation aspect of the project, allowing Jaspreet to focus on her creative contributions. Although Sunaina is highly disciplined, her reserved nature may limit the dynamic engagement needed for such a collaborative and artistic endeavour. Tabassum, while creative and spontaneous, might worsen Jaspreet's challenges with time management.

6. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two.

5

A. He just felt a bit dizzy Then he flapped his wings once and he soared upwards. “Ga, ga, ga, Ga, ga, ga, Gaw-col-ah,” his mother swooped past him, her wings making a loud noise. He answered her with another scream. Then his father flew over him screaming. He saw his two brothers and his sister flying around him curvetting and banking and soaring and diving. Then he completely forgot that he had not always been able to fly, and commended himself to dive and soar and curve, shrieking shrilly. (Two Stories About Flying - First Flight)

I. Contradict the view that the young seagull celebrated his maiden flight alone.

1

Ans. The young seagull did not celebrate his maiden flight alone. His mother and father encouraged him by flying past him and prompting him. Additionally, his siblings, were flying around him, further motivating him. The collective presence of his family made the victory a shared experience rather than a solitary one.

II. Which of the following statements best explains the young seagull’s experience as he starts flying?

2

(a) The young seagull immediately mastered flying and was no longer afraid.

(b) The young seagull gradually gained confidence and joined his family in the air.

Ans. (b) The young seagull gradually gained confidence and joined his family in the air. [wasn’t immediate as he felt dizzy initially]

III. What can be inferred about the young seagull’s emotional state after flying with his family?

1

Ans. The young seagull feels a sense of accomplishment and excitement, as he forgets that he was once afraid to fly and embraces the thrill of soaring and diving with his family.

IV. Read the following sound and movement words.

1

- (i) flapped (ii) shrieking
(iii) swooped (iv) soared
(v) screaming

Select the option that correctly categorises (i) –(v) into sound and movement words.

No	Sound	Movement
A	(i), (ii), (v)	(iii), (iv)
B	(iv), (v)	(i), (ii), (iii)
C	(ii), (v)	(i), (iii), (iv)
D	(v)	(i), (ii), (iii), (iv)

Ans. (C) (ii), (v) (sound)

(i), (iii), (iv) (movement)

OR

B. Historian: ...You haven’t heard about the Martian invasion of 2040? Tsk, tsk. What do they teach children nowadays? Well, you know, the invasion never really happened, because a single book stopped it. What was the book, you ask? A noble encyclopaedia? A tome about rockets and missiles? A secret file from outer space? No, it was none of those. It was — but here, let me turn on the historiscope and show you what happened many centuries ago, in 2040. (*She turns on projector, and points it left. Spotlight on Historian goes out...*) (The Book That saved the Earth)

I. What does the pause indicated by the dash in the line ‘It was — but here, let me turn on the historiscope and show you’ convey?

1

- (i) a sense of impatience and frustration
(ii) a point of suspense and anticipation
(iii) a moment of confusion and hesitation
(iv) a sudden shift to lightheartedness
(v) a reflective moment of deep thought

A. (i), (ii), (v)

B. Only (ii)

C. (iii) and (iv)

D. Only (v)

Ans. (B) Only (ii) [the pause creates an expectation for the audience, setting the stage for a revelation and keeping them intrigued]

- II. How do the stage directions, such as ‘Historian turns on projector’ and ‘Spotlight on Historian goes out,’ contribute to the atmosphere and understanding of the scene in this part of the play? 2

Ans. The stage directions, like turning on the projector and dimming the spotlight, help create a shift in focus and set the tone for the scene. The projector signals a transition from narration to visual storytelling, while the fading spotlight on the Historian reveals the movement toward the next key action or character, heightening the suspense and anticipation of the forthcoming revelation. These technical elements guide the audience’s attention and contribute to the play’s overall pacing and dramatic effect.

- III. Select the option that correctly completes the following. 1

The Historian dismisses the noble encyclopaedia and rockets because she wants to _____

- (a) convey the importance of scientific knowledge and military power in stopping the invasion.
(b) stress the surprising and unexpected nature of the book that stopped the invasion.

Ans. (b) stress the surprising and unexpected nature of the book that stopped the invasion.

- IV. What emotion is the Historian most likely conveying with the phrase ‘Tsk, tsk’? 1

Ans. disappointment / disapproval

7. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two. 5

A. He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,
The epistemology of loss, how to stand up
Knowing what every man must one day know
And most know many days, how to stand up.

(The Ball Poem)

- I. What emotions are most appropriately conveyed by the phrase ‘desperate eyes’ and ‘epistemology of loss’? 1

- (i) despair (ii) anger (iii) frustration (iv) confusion
(v) helplessness

Select the correct option.

- A. (i), (iii) B. (i), (iv), (v) C. (ii), (iii), (iv) D. (iv), (v)

Ans. (B) (i), (iv), (v)

[‘anger’ and ‘frustration’ are less appropriate because the focus is on emotional confusion, helplessness, and the acceptance of loss, rather than a reaction of resistance or blockage. The boy’s emotional state is about grappling with a deeper understanding of life’s impermanence, rather than lashing out at the loss or the situation.]

- II. What does the phrase ‘how to stand up’ suggest about the boy’s emotional growth? 2

Ans. The phrase ‘how to stand up’ suggests that the boy is learning to confront and cope with the emotional impact of loss. It signifies his emotional growth, as he begins to understand that facing grief is an essential part of life. This realisation helps to teach him to recover from hardship and accept the inevitability of loss.

- III. Which phrase from the extract conveys the poet’s idea that loss is universal? 1

Ans. ‘most know’

- IV. Fill in the blank with a phrase to suitably complete the sentence. 1

The loss of his ball symbolises _____ in life.

Ans. the inevitable hardships / the hardships / the first encounter with grief / the harsh realities / the fleeting nature of joy / the transient nature of material possessions

OR

B. Or if some time when roaming round,
A noble wild beast greets you,
With black stripes on a yellow ground,
Just notice if he eats you.
This simple rule may help you learn
The Bengal Tiger to discern.

CLICK HERE

To Discover more

(How to tell Wild Animals)

- I. What does the poet imply by referring to the Bengal Tiger as a 'noble wild beast'? 1
- A. The tiger is majestic and dignified despite its ferocity. B. The tiger is kind and considerate toward humans.
C. The tiger has a royal lineage and should be revered. D. The tiger is a symbol of fear and destruction.

Ans. (A) The tiger is majestic and dignified despite its ferocity

- II. Complete the following suitably. 1

The word 'ground' in the line 'With black stripes on a yellow ground' refers to ____.

Ans. ...the background colour of the tiger's coat, which is yellow

- III. How does the poet use humour in the description of the Bengal Tiger? 1

Ans. The poet uses humour to present the Bengal Tiger's dangerous nature in a light-hearted way. By describing it as 'noble' but humorously suggesting identification through being eaten, the poet softens the fear associated with the tiger and makes its ferocity entertaining. The playful tone and the ironic contradiction between calling the tiger 'noble' and focusing on its ferocity create a humorous effect, making the tiger's dangerous nature seem amusing rather than frightening.

- IV. Identify the phrase in the poem that is advisory in nature. 2

Ans. 'This simple rule may help you learn'

[This is advisory in nature as it offers a guideline / a playful instruction]

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions in about 40–50 words each. 4 × 3 = 12

Content-2	Expression – 1	Accuracy – Deduct up to 1 mark from overall
-----------	----------------	---

- I. Otters are known for their peculiar behavioural traits. Support this statement with reference to any two traits mentioned in 'Mijbil the Otter.' 3

Ans. (Any two)

- ☐ Love for movement in water - Otters cannot tolerate static water. Mijbil overturned bowls, sat in them, or splashed water until it overflowed, ensuring water was always in motion.
- ☐ Curiosity - Mijbil explored his surroundings keenly, investigating objects and trying to interact with his environment, such as fumbling with taps to turn them on.
- ☐ Juggling skills - Mijbil could juggle marbles on his belly while lying on his back, displaying dexterity and coordination.

- II. How does the use of repetition in the poem 'Amanda!' highlight the speaker's expectations and Amanda's responses? 3

Ans. The repetition highlights the speaker's constant expectations, reinforcing Amanda's lack of freedom and autonomy. The repeated commands like 'Don't bite your nails' highlight the pressure placed on Amanda.

In contrast, Amanda's imaginative escapes, which are not repetitive, reflect her desire for independence and freedom, showcasing the tension between external control and her longing for self-expression.

- III. How can Nelson Mandela's vision of 'liberating both the oppressed and the oppressor' be applied in modern-day societies to address issues of inequality and discrimination? 3

(Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom)

Ans. This vision can be applied in modern societies by fostering dialogue, understanding, and reconciliation between different groups. Addressing inequality requires not only empowering marginalised communities but also educating and transforming the mindsets of those who perpetuate discrimination, breaking the cycle of hatred and prejudice. This dual approach ensures lasting peace and equality.

- IV. How does the line 'and then moves on' reflect the transient nature of the fog thereby contributing to the poem's deeper message about life's impermanence? 3

(Fog)

Ans. The line symbolises the fleeting and impermanent nature of the fog, paralleling the transient moments in life. Just as the fog quietly arrives, lingers briefly, and disappears, so too do many moments in life that come and go without warning, often leaving a lasting impression or a sense of reflection. This imagery reinforces the poem's theme that, like fog, many experiences are temporary, quietly arriving and departing without notice, leaving behind a sense of mystery and contemplation.

V. How does Chubukov's reaction to Lomov's marriage proposal reflect his priorities and values? *(The Proposal)* **3**

Ans. Chubukov's reaction to Lomov's marriage proposal reflects his opportunistic and materialistic priorities. He enthusiastically embraces the proposal, showing relief and joy, not because of Lomov's love for Natalya but due to the potential benefits of securing a marriage for his daughter with a neighbouring landowner. His exaggerated affection for Lomov, calling him 'my dear fellow,' contrasts sharply with his prior suspicions. This reveals Chubukov's value for a status in society and economic security over genuine emotional connections.

9. Answer any two of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. **2 × 3 = 6**

<i>Content-2</i>	<i>Expression – 1</i>	<i>Accuracy – Deduct up to 1 mark from overall</i>
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I. How does 'The Necklace' illustrate the significance of honesty as the key element for leading a happy and stress-free life? **3**

Ans. ☐ Matilda's decision to replace the necklace without telling her friend the truth leads to a decade of suffering – how dishonesty can result in unforeseen consequences that affect one's well-being.
☐ The act of lying causes unnecessary stress and anxiety - Matilda and her husband live in constant fear of being found out, which affects their physical and emotional health.
☐ If Matilda had admitted her mistake, the outcome could have been very different - honesty fosters peace of mind.

II. Briefly evaluate the validity of the adage 'Values are caught, not taught', in the context of the relationship between Anil and Hari Singh in 'The Thief's Story'. **3**

Ans. The statement 'Values are caught, not taught' is evident in the story, particularly in the incident when Hari Singh steals Anil's money but later decides to return it. Anil's silent trust and kindness, such as forgiving Hari Singh's failed attempt at cooking and teaching him to read and write, deeply impact the thief. These actions, rather than words, teach Hari Singh the value of trust and honesty, prompting him to choose integrity over theft.

III. Griffin's experiences moments of comfort and normalcy while being invisible. How do these fleeting moments impact his sense of identity and his actions throughout 'Footprints Without Feet'? **3**

Ans. Griffin's fleeting moments of comfort, such as finding warmth and food, momentarily restore his sense of normalcy but quickly highlight his isolation. These experiences deepen his frustration and longing for connection, influencing his actions. His desperation for survival leads him to steal, disguise himself, and ultimately resort to violence, revealing the emotional toll and the erosion of his identity as he becomes increasingly detached from society.

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100–120 words. **1 × 6 = 6**

<i>Content-3</i>	<i>Expression – 2</i>	<i>Accuracy – 1</i>
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A. How does literature like 'The Baker from Goa,' 'Coorg,' and 'Tea from Assam' contribute to promoting tourism and raising awareness about regional cultures and traditions? **6**

Ans. Introduction

It plays a significant role in promoting tourism by showcasing the unique cultural, historical, and natural elements of these regions. Each narrative vividly describes local traditions, landscapes, and lifestyles, sparking interest in these destinations among readers.

Body response points

- ☐ 'The Baker from Goa' highlights the enduring Goan tradition of baking, the cultural significance of the baker's role, and the idyllic charm of the region. By focusing on the local customs and the nostalgia of childhood memories, it attracts visitors eager to experience Goa's rich heritage, culinary delights, and laid-back atmosphere.
- ☐ 'Coorg' introduces readers to the region's beautiful landscapes, rich history, and distinct culture. It entices tourists by describing the Coorgi people's martial traditions, hospitality, and connection to nature.
- ☐ 'Tea from Assam' presents Assam as a tea haven, talking about its tea gardens, picturesque landscapes, and cultural significance. The story highlights the importance of tea in Assam's history, making it an attractive destination for travellers keen on exploring the tea estates, learning about tea cultivation, and experiencing the region's serene beauty.

Conclusion

The detailed depictions of these regions, make them effective tools for promoting tourism by encouraging people to visit and experience these unique places firsthand.

OR

- B. The poems, 'The Trees' and 'A Tiger in the Zoo' resonate the theme of importance of freedom and the desire to break free from any kind of dominance. Examine. 6

Ans. (Response to be created largely from the first point combined with either the second or third point)

- ❑ The trees are metaphorically trapped within the house, with their roots disengaging from the cracks in the veranda. Their movement toward the forest represents a yearning for freedom and a return to their natural state.
- ❑ The tiger is physically confined to a cage in the zoo, symbolising the desire to break free from captivity and return to the wild. The tiger's restlessness in the cage mirrors the internal struggle for freedom.
- ❑ The trees symbolise natural growth and freedom. Their release from the house signifies nature's tolerance and the need for unrestricted growth, much like the human desire to escape limitations that are either physical or the society's. The tiger represents the power of nature and wildness that is stifled by human confinement. The metaphorical connection to freedom is portrayed through the tiger's yearning for the freedom to roam freely in its natural habitat.
- ❑ The movement of the trees towards the forest symbolises liberation from human-made boundaries, stressing how freedom brings renewal and natural growth.

The zoo represents oppression, where the tiger's desire for freedom is unmet. The contrast between the freedom of the wild and the limitations of captivity is stark, showcasing the tiger's struggle.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100–120 words.

1 × 6 = 6

<i>Content-3</i>	<i>Expression – 2</i>	<i>Accuracy – 1</i>
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- A. How does the author use the narrative technique of misdirection in 'The Midnight Visitor', to enhance the suspense and the story's unexpected ending? 6

Ans. The author uses the narrative technique of misdirection masterfully in 'The Midnight Visitor' to enhance suspense and deliver an unexpected ending.

From the beginning, the reader is led to believe in the existence of a balcony through Ausable's fabricated story. By confidently describing how the balcony has been used for intrusions in the past, Ausable creates a believable scenario. This misdirection not only deceives Max but also builds tension as the reader anticipates how the balcony might play a role in the unfolding events.

The suspense peaks when Max, in a desperate attempt to avoid the 'police,' decides to escape through the balcony—only to realise too late that it doesn't exist. This clever twist destabilises expectations and highlights Ausable's wit and resourcefulness.

The use of misdirection keeps the reader engaged and ensures a surprising and satisfying conclusion to the story.

OR

- B. Comment critically on the role of the Surgery in the 'The Triumph of Surgery'. 6

Ans. The role of the Surgery in the story is pivotal, both as a place of physical recovery and as a catalyst for Tricki's transformation. Critically, the Surgery represents a contrast to the overindulgent environment at Mrs. Pumphrey's home. While Mrs. Pumphrey's pampering and excessive feeding led to Tricki's ill health, the Surgery offers a more balanced, structured environment where Tricki receives proper care, including a strict diet, exercise, and, importantly, social interaction with other dogs, all of which contribute significantly to his recovery.

The Surgery symbolises not just medical intervention but a shift toward responsible pet care, bringing up the important aspect of a pet's well-being which requires more than affection and indulgence.

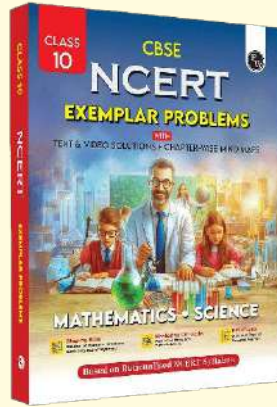
Through Tricki's recovery at the Surgery, the writer critiques overindulgence and highlights the importance of holistic, responsible care for pets, both physically and emotionally.

The Must-Have Books for Conquering **Board Exams**



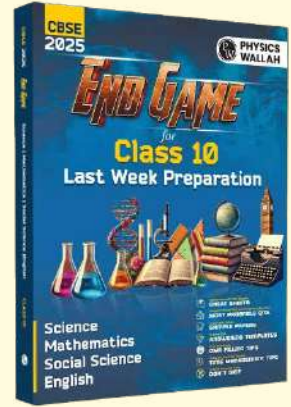
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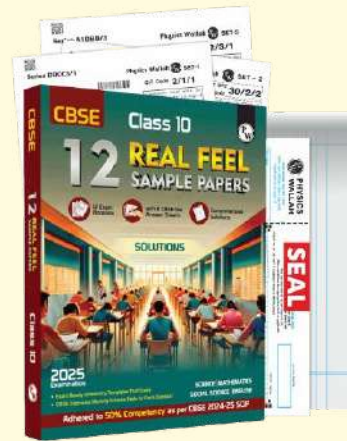
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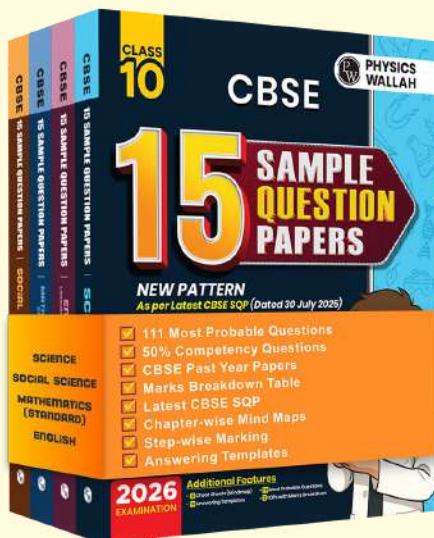
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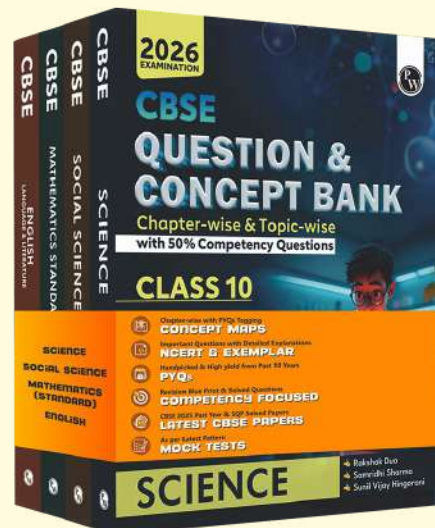
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Q.P. Code **01**



Candidates must write the Q.P. Code on the title page of the answer book.

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER-I

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

NOTE:

- (i) Please check that this question paper contains **8** printed pages.
- (ii) Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- (iii) Please check that this question paper contains **11** questions.
- (iv) **Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book before attempting it.**
- (v) 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them:

- (i) This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) The question paper contains THREE sections-
 - Section A – Reading Skills
 - Section B – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
 - Section C – Literature Textbook
- (iii) Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION - A

READING SKILLS

(20 marks)

(10 m)

1. Read the following text.

1. Gender equality is a topic that has gained significant attention in recent years. It refers to the equal treatment and opportunities for individuals of all genders, without any discrimination or bias. While progress has been made towards achieving gender equality, there are still numerous challenges that need to be addressed.
2. One of the key aspects of gender equality is ensuring equal opportunities for individuals of all genders. Historically, women have faced barriers and limitations in various areas, including education, employment, and leadership positions. However, with the rise of feminist movements and advocacy, there has been a shift towards breaking these barriers. Today, we see more women pursuing higher education, entering the workforce, and taking on leadership roles. This progress not only benefits women but also contributes to the overall growth and development of society.

3. Gender equality also involves challenging and breaking down gender stereotypes. Society often assigns specific roles and expectations based on gender, which can limit individuals' freedom and potential. For instance, the notion that women should prioritize family over career or that men should be strong and emotionless perpetuates harmful stereotypes. By challenging these stereotypes, we create a more inclusive and accepting society where individuals are free to express themselves authentically, regardless of societal expectations.
4. Gender inequality can have a profound impact on mental health. Discrimination, unequal treatment, and limited opportunities can lead to feelings of frustration, low self-esteem, and even depression. Women, in particular, may face additional challenges such as gender-based violence and harassment. It is crucial to address these issues and provide support systems to ensure the mental well-being of all individuals. By promoting gender equality, we create an environment that fosters positive mental health and overall well-being.
5. Gender equality is not solely a women's issue; it requires the active involvement of men as well. Men play a crucial role in challenging and dismantling patriarchal systems that perpetuate inequality. By becoming allies and advocates for gender equality, men can help create a more equitable society for all. This includes promoting equal opportunities, challenging harmful stereotypes, and actively supporting women's rights. When men and women work together towards gender equality, the impact is far-reaching and transformative.
6. In conclusion, gender equality is a fundamental human right that benefits individuals and society as a whole. It involves equal opportunities, challenging stereotypes, promoting mental health, and the active involvement of both men and women. While progress has been made, there is still work to be done. By continuing to raise awareness, advocate for change, and create inclusive spaces, we can move closer to achieving true gender equality.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (i) Which of the following best describes the author's attitude towards gender equality? 1
 - (a) The author believes that gender equality is unnecessary and irrelevant.
 - (b) The author believes that gender equality has been achieved and no further action is needed.
 - (c) The author believes that gender equality is important and beneficial for individuals and society.
 - (d) The author believes that gender equality is a women's issue and does not involve men.
- (ii) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from the paragraph? Rationalize your response in about 40 words: 2
Gender equality is a fundamental human right that benefits individuals and society as a whole.
- (iii) Complete the following with the correct option from the two given. 1
 The author's main argument in the passage is that _____.
 - (a) Gender equality is crucial for the growth and development of individuals and society as a whole.
 - (b) Gender equality only benefits women and should focus solely on women's rights. (paragraph 5)
- (iv) State whether the following statement is True or False: 1
 Men play a crucial role in challenging and dismantling patriarchal systems to promote gender equality. (paragraph 5)
- (v) Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given: 1
 In the passage, the phrase "challenging gender stereotypes" refers to _____.
 - (a) Promoting traditional roles for men and women
 - (b) Removing societal expectations based on gender
 - (c) Encouraging women to prioritize family over career
 - (d) Limiting the involvement of men in equality efforts (paragraph 3)
- (vi) Based on the reading of the paragraph, how can men help with gender equality? Explain in about 40 words. 2
- (vii) Select the option that best reflects the message conveyed by the rise of feminist movements and advocacy in the context of gender equality. 1
 - (a) Feminist movements have had no impact on gender equality.
 - (b) Feminist movements have contributed to breaking barriers and promoting gender equality. (paragraph 2)
- (viii) Classify the following lines from the paragraph as challenges related to gender equality / benefits of gender equality / actions required for gender equality: 1
 "Gender inequality can have a profound impact on mental health. Discrimination, unequal treatment, and limited opportunities can lead to feelings of frustration, low self-esteem, and even depression."

2. Read the following text.

(10 m)

1. Sleep plays a crucial role in maintaining overall health and well-being. Adequate and quality sleep is essential for various physiological and cognitive functions. Research has shown that insufficient sleep can have detrimental effects on both physical and mental health.
2. One of the key impacts of sleep deprivation is its effect on the immune system. Studies have found that lack of sleep can weaken the immune response, making individuals more susceptible to infections and diseases. Moreover, chronic sleep deprivation has been linked to an increased risk of developing chronic conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases.
3. In addition to physical health, sleep also plays a vital role in cognitive function and mental well-being. Sufficient sleep is necessary for optimal brain function, including memory consolidation, learning, and problem-solving skills. Lack of sleep can impair cognitive performance, attention, and decision-making abilities. It has also been associated with an increased risk of mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety.
4. To emphasize the significance of sleep on overall health, let's consider some statistical data. According to a study conducted by the National Sleep Foundation, about 35% of adults in the United States report getting less than seven hours of sleep per night, which falls below the recommended amount. Furthermore, the same study found that individuals who consistently get less than seven hours of sleep are more likely to experience health problems and have a lower quality of life.
5. In conclusion, sleep is a fundamental pillar of good health. It is essential for maintaining a strong immune system, supporting cognitive function, and promoting mental well-being. Adequate sleep should be prioritized as part of a healthy lifestyle to prevent the development of chronic diseases and promote overall well-being.

Here is a table summarizing the recommended sleep duration for different age groups (data only for reference):

Age Group	Recommended Sleep Duration
Infants	14-17 hours
Toddlers	11-14 hours
Preschool	10-13 hours
School-age	9-11 hours
Teenagers	8-10 hours
Adults	7-9 hours

Remember, prioritizing sleep is crucial for maintaining optimal health and well-being.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

- (i) Complete the sentence suitably. 1
The significant impact of sleep deprivation on the immune system is that it _____.
- (ii) The statement, "Teenagers can function well on 4-5 hours of sleep" is a fact or opinion? 1
- (iii) Complete the following with a suitable reason. 1
The most likely reason the writer emphasizes the importance of adequate sleep for cognitive function is because it can _____.
- (iv) According to the passage, what were the main findings of the study conducted by the National Sleep Foundation? 1
- (v) From the information provided in the passage, what can be inferred about the relationship between sleep and mental health? 1
- (vi) In the context of the passage, what does the word 'consolidation' most closely mean _____? 1
- (vii) Compare and contrast the impact of sleep deprivation on physical health and mental health based on the information in the passage. What are the potential consequences for each? (Answer in about 40 words) 2

- (viii) Which of the following best captures the main idea of the passage? 1
- (a) Sleep is essential for maintaining overall health and well-being.
- (b) Lack of sleep can weaken the immune system and impair cognitive function.
- (c) Adequate sleep is necessary for optimal brain function and mental well-being.
- (d) Sleep deprivation is linked to an increased risk of chronic diseases and mental health disorders
- (ix) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below. 1

Assertion: Sleep is important for maintaining a strong immune system.

Reason: Lack of sleep can weaken the immune response and increase susceptibility to diseases. (paragraph 2)

- (a) Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
- (b) Both the assertion and reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
- (c) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
- (d) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

SECTION - B

GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR

(20 marks)

GRAMMAR

10

3. Attempt ANY TEN of twelve of the following questions.

(10 × 1 = 10)

- (i) Complete the following sentence from a scientific paper by choosing the correct option:

The research team _____ the data to identify possible correlations.

- (a) analyzes (b) have analyzed (c) has analyzed (d) analyzing

- (ii) Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence from a research paper.

The study's findings implies that further research is necessary in this field.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

- (iii) Rahul and Anjali had a discussion about their upcoming presentation on climate change.

Rahul asked Anjali, "Are you confident about our presentation on climate change?"

Convert the direct speech question into its corresponding indirect speech.

- (iv) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the given sentence.

I went to the temple with my parents, aunts and cousin sisters.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

- (v) Complete the following sentence from a legal document by choosing the correct option:

The defendant's lawyer argued that the evidence presented _____ sufficient to prove his client's innocence.

- (a) is (b) are (c) was (d) were

- (vi) Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence:

They left their luggages at home by mistake and went to the railway station.

Option	Error	Correction
(a)	luggages	luggage
(b)	at	in
(c)	and	so
(d)	their	theirs

(vii) Choose the correct determiner for the following.

She has had _____ (several/some/enough) of this flavour.

(viii) Fill in the blanks choosing the correct option from the given options:

The number of people lined up at the ration shops _____ twenty three.

(a) was (b) were (c) have been (d) none of the above

(ix) Select the correct option to complete the narration of a dialogue between a student and a teacher.

Student: Could you please explain the concept of photosynthesis?

Teacher: Certainly, plants use sunlight to convert carbon dioxide into glucose.

The student asked the teacher if they could explain the concept of photosynthesis. The teacher replied that _____.

- (a) plants used sunlight to convert carbon dioxide into glucose
 (b) plants use sunlight to convert carbon dioxide into glucose
 (c) plants use sunlight for converting carbon dioxide into glucose
 (d) plants use sunlight to convert carbon dioxide into sugar

(x) Fill in the blanks choosing the correct option from the given options:

I think I _____ have failed the test, but I'm not sure.

(a) ought to (b) might (c) shall (d) will

(xi) Complete the following sentence from a scientific research paper by choosing the correct option:

The study's results _____ a correlation between pollution levels and respiratory diseases.

(a) indicate (b) indicates (c) indicated (d) indicating

(xii) Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence from a legal document.

The defendant was found guilty for the crime of fraud on the expense of the company.

WRITING

10

Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below:

5

(A) While reading a magazine, you came across the following article:

There is a growing lack of sensitivity and respect for our fellow creatures. There was a talk about the food web and the energy cycles and ecological balance, and how the removal of any element disrupts the whole system, and how this can affect human beings too. What this approach lacks is the essential interaction with nature and with other human beings. Indeed, in many environmental activities, the opposite takes place.

You are an educationist and you feel that environmental education imparted in schools needs reorientation. The stress should not be on preserving nature for human use, but for protecting animals and plants for their own sake. Based on the information given above and using your own ideas, write a letter to the editor of a national daily, in about 120 words. You are Aakash/Avni, residing at 163/A, Shahpur Jat, Delhi.

OR

(B) You are Rajat/Rashi of 25, Akbar Road, New Delhi. Write a letter to the Police commissioner (traffic) about inadequate parking facilities in the Connaught Palace area of New Delhi.

5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below:

5

(A) You are the Cultural Secretary of your school. Two performers — Ms. Neha Desai and Mr. Vikram Roy — have written to express interest in being the chief guest at your Annual Literary Fest. Read the excerpts from their emails.

Excerpt 1- Ms. Neha Desai

...I am honoured to be considered for your school's Literary Fest. As an award-winning poet and author of three young adult novels, I believe in connecting with young readers through stories that reflect their lives. I have conducted interactive writing workshops across 50+ schools and am passionate about helping students express themselves through creative writing and poetry. My sessions focus on the emotional power of words and building confidence in self-expression.

Best Regards
Ms. Neha Desai

Excerpt 2- Mr. Vikram Roy

...It would be a pleasure to join your Literary Fest. I am a well-known journalist and columnist with over two decades of experience in media. I have delivered guest lectures at various universities and love engaging students in debates on current events and social issues. My focus is on developing critical thinking, media literacy, and the ability to question and reflect. I aim to empower students to become responsible and informed communicators.

Regards
Mr. Vikram Roy

Now write a response analysing who would be the better choice as the chief guest. Justify your answer with reasons based on the excerpts.

OR

- (B) Kritika, a Class-X student, has been selected to participate in a national-level student panel discussion on “Youth and Mental Wellness.” She is known for her empathy, sensitivity, and thoughtful insights, but she sometimes feels hesitant to speak in front of large groups and prefers working in calm, cooperative settings. She can choose one partner for the panel discussion from the following three students — Ayaan, Mehak, and Ritu.

Ayaan: Ayaan is confident and articulate, with a natural talent for public speaking. He is quick on his feet and loves engaging the audience. However, he tends to dominate discussions and sometimes misses emotional nuance while presenting.

Mehak: Mehak is friendly, cooperative, and speaks with warmth and care. She has experience hosting school well-being sessions and knows how to handle sensitive topics thoughtfully. She often works behind the scenes but performs well when encouraged.

Ritu: Ritu is assertive, well-informed, and highly organised. She keeps discussions focused and manages time efficiently. While she is excellent at delivering facts and structuring arguments, she may come across as too formal for emotionally delicate conversations.

Based on the strengths of each candidate, who do you think would be the best partner for Kritika? Support your answer with reasons focusing on communication, emotional sensitivity, and panel dynamics.

SECTION - C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK

(40 marks)

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

5

- (A) When I returned, there was an appalling spectacle. There was complete silence from the box, but from its air holes and chinks around the lid, blood had trickled and dried. I whipped off the lock and tore open the lid, and Mij, exhausted and blood-spattered, whimpered and caught at my leg. He had torn the box's lining to shreds; when I removed the last of it so that there were no cutting edges left, it was just ten minutes until the time of the flight, and the airport was five miles distant. I put the miserable Mij back into the box, holding the lid with my hand. I sat in the back of the car with the box beside me as the driver tore through the streets of Basra like a ricocheting bullet. *(Mijbil the Otter)*

- (i) What did the narrator do to prevent further harm to Mij?

1

(a) Put him in a bigger box.

(b) Removed the lining of the box.

(c) Gave him food and water.

(d) Took him to a vet.

- (ii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. 1
 The use of the word 'whipped' adds to a sense of _____ (urgency / calm) in the extract.
- (iii) What can be inferred about Mij's condition when he was found in the box? 1
- (iv) How does this passage highlight issues related to animal welfare? 2

OR

(B) "Tell me another!" scoffed Pranjol. "We have an Indian legend too. Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic, cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditations. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. The leaves of these plants, when put in hot water and drunk, banished sleep." "Tea was first drunk in China," Rajvir added, "as far back as 2700 B.C.! In fact, words such as tea, chai and chini are from the Chinese. Tea came to Europe only in the sixteenth century and was drunk more as medicine than as Beverage." (Glimpses of India: Tea from Assam)

- (i) Which of the following statements is NOT supported by the text? 1
 (a) Tea was first drunk in China around 2700 B.C.
 (b) The word 'chai' is originally Chinese.
 (c) Bodhidharma cut off his eyelids because he wanted to stay awake.
 (d) In Europe, tea was initially used as a beauty product.
- (ii) What emotion is Pranjol likely experiencing when he says, "Tell me another!"? 1
- (iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. 1
 The word 'scoffed' in the line "Tell me another!" scoffed Pranjol suggests that Pranjol was speaking with _____ (mockery / excitement).
- (iv) If an actor were to enact this extract, which element would require special emphasis while modulating Pranjol's voice? 2

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 5

(A) But if it had to perish twice

I think I know enough of hate

To say that for destruction ice

Is also great

And would suffice

(Fire & Ice)

- (i) Fill the blank with ONE word. 1
 The word 'It' in the line "But if it had to perish twice" refers to _____.
- (ii) According to the poet, what does 'ice' symbolize in the lines, "To say that for destruction ice is also great"? 1
- (iii) Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the lines of the given extract. 1
 (a) In time we face our greatest fears,
 For those who seek the light,
 The end may come in a flood of tears,
 But we still fight,
 Throughout the years.
 (b) The sea may rise and take the land,
 But fire burns within,
 And nothing ever goes as planned,
 The end will soon begin.
 To last forever and ever.
 (c) The night will fall without delay,
 It casts a long, cold shade.
 The stars will shine, then fade away,
 With time and age,
 It all decays.
 (d) A storm may come and bring despair,
 It leaves us in a daze.
 The world will suffer, with no repair,
 Through endless days,
 With heavy care.
- (iv) What does the speaker mean by saying, "But if it had to perish twice"? How does the speaker perceive the destructive power of ice? 2

OR

(B) Though to distinguish beasts of prey

A novice might nonplus,
The Crocodile you always may Tell
from the Hyena thus:

Hyenas come with merry smiles;
But if they weep they're Crocodiles.

(How to Tell wild Animals)

(i) Complete the following suitably. 1

According to the extract, Hyenas are known for their _____.

(ii) According to the lines, "Hyenas come with merry smiles; But if they weep they're Crocodiles," what is the distinguishing feature of a crocodile? 1

(iii) What, according to the extract, would cause bewilderment? 1

(a) Discovering the similarity between different prey of beasts.

(b) Analyzing habits of beasts that prey on hyenas.

(c) Knowing the difference between several beasts of prey.

(d) Drawing the similarities between crocodiles and hyenas.

(iv) Explore the use of imagery and descriptive language in the poem. How does it enhance the reader's experience? 2

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. (4 × 3 = 12)

(i) How does the postmaster's actions in "A Letter to God" contrast with Lencho's beliefs about God's role in his life?

(ii) How does Nelson Mandela emphasize the importance of collective struggle in achieving freedom?

(iii) How does the young seagull's journey in the first story of "Two Stories About Flying" symbolize the challenges one faces when stepping out of their comfort zone?

(iv) What is Anne Frank's attitude towards life, as portrayed in "From the Diary of Anne Frank"?

(v) What aspects of Indian diversity are highlighted in "Glimpses of India"?

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2 × 3 = 6)

(i) In "The Book That Saved the Earth," how does the misunderstanding about Earth's literature by Martian invaders act as a form of protection for the Earth?

(ii) How does the character of Bholi defy societal expectations and norms by the end of the story?

(iii) What do you think the narrator in "The Triumph of Surgery" is like? Would you say he is tactful and full of common sense at the same time?

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 6

(A) You have been invited to give a talk about the themes of independence and self-realization in young individuals. Create your speech draft in not more than 120 words, comparing Valli's journey in "Madam Rides the Bus" and the message conveyed in the poem "For Anne Gregory."

OR

(B) You've been selected to address students from local schools about overcoming fears and the significance of support systems in that process. Prepare a speech draft in not more than 120 words, discussing the common themes in "The Ball Poem" and "His First Flight."

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 6

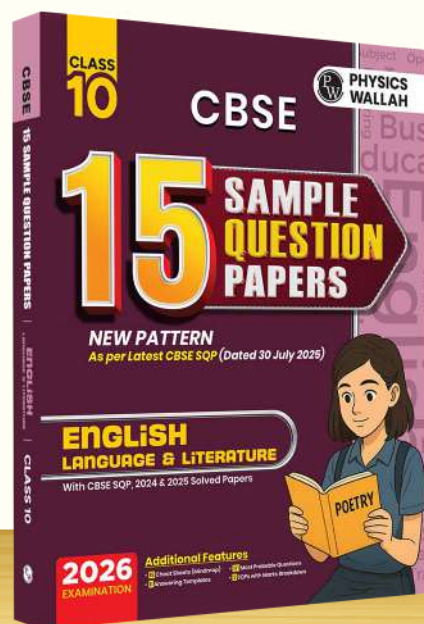
(A) Imagine that Anil, from "The Thief's Story" by Ruskin Bond, writes a diary entry reflecting on his choice to trust people and the transformative power of trust and kindness, using his experience with the thief as context. Write this diary entry as Anil, in about 120 words.

OR

(B) In light of the concept of a character arc, which represents the transformation or development of a character through the story, describe the changes Bholi's parents undergo as a result of their experiences, challenges, and interactions with other characters in the chapter "Bholi".

Class 10 Ki Taiyaari Ho Ab Aur Bhi Aasan!

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SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER-I

(Explanations)

1. (i) (c) The author believes that gender equality is important and beneficial for individuals and society.

(ii)

Marking Scheme



3 Min

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| ☞ Assertive tone on gender equality. | (1 M) |
| ☞ Convincing language for urgency. | (1 M) |

The tone of the writer in these lines is assertive and persuasive. The writer presents a strong belief in the importance of gender equality as a fundamental human right that benefits both individuals and society. The use of words like “fundamental” and “benefits” conveys a sense of conviction and urgency, indicating that the writer wants to persuade the reader of its significance.

- (iii) (a) Gender equality is crucial for the growth and development of individuals and society as a whole.
- (iv) True [The passage says that men are important in helping break down unfair systems and supporting equality for everyone.]
- (v) (b) Removing societal expectations based on gender

(vi)

Marking Scheme



3 Min

- | | |
|---|-------|
| ☞ Men’s role in equality. | (1 M) |
| ☞ Promoting opportunities, challenging stereotypes. | (1 M) |

By becoming allies and advocates for gender equality, men can help create a more equitable society which would include promoting equal opportunities, challenging harmful stereotypes and actively supporting women's rights.

- (vii) (b) Feminist movements have contributed to breaking barriers and promoting gender equality.
- (viii) Challenges related to gender equality.
2. (i) leads to a weakened immune response, making individuals more prone to diseases.
- (ii) opinion
- (iii) support memory, learning, and decision-making skills.

- (iv) The main findings of the study conducted by the National Sleep Foundation were that about 35% of adults in the United States report getting less than seven hours of sleep per night, which falls below the recommended amount. Furthermore, individuals who consistently get less than seven hours of sleep are more likely to experience health problems and have a lower quality of life.

- (v) From the information provided in the paragraph, it can be inferred that lack of sleep is associated with an increased risk of mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety.

- (vi) the process of organizing and storing information

(vii)

Marking Scheme



3 Min

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| ☞ Physical health effects. | (1 M) |
| ☞ Mental health effects. | (1 M) |

According to the paragraph, sleep deprivation has detrimental effects on both physical and mental health. Lack of sleep weakens the immune response, making individuals more susceptible to infections and diseases, which can lead to chronic conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. On the other hand, sleep deprivation impairs cognitive performance, attention, and decision-making abilities. It has also been associated with an increased risk of mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety.

- (viii) (c) Adequate sleep is necessary for optimal brain function and mental well-being.
- (ix) (a) Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion. [The passage clearly explains that sleep is important for the immune system because lack of sleep can weaken the immune response, which makes individuals more prone to diseases, supporting both the assertion and the reason as true and correctly related.]

3. (i) (c) has analyzed

(ii)

Error	Correction
implies	imply

(iii) Rahul asked Anjali if she was confident about their presentation on climate change.

Error	Correction
cousin sisters	cousins

(v) (c) was

Error	Correction
luggages	luggage

(vii) enough

(viii) (a) was

(ix) (b) plants use sunlight to convert carbon dioxide into glucose

(x) (b) might

(xi) (a) indicate

Error	Correction
on	at

4. CBSE Marking Scheme

Format (1M):

Correct sender's address, date, receiver's designation and address, subject, salutation, body and closing [full credit if all aspects included. Partial credit ($\frac{1}{2}$ mark) if one-two aspects are missing. No credit if more than two aspects are missing]

Content (2M)*:

$\frac{1}{2}$ mark for each content point area addressed -suggestion, importance, implication, recommendation

Organisation of Ideas (1M):

Effective style, orderly sequence, paragraphed structure, formal tone and vocabulary

Accuracy (1M):

No spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors noted

(A) Marking Scheme 20 Min

☞ **Suggestion:** Focus on respect for all life in education. ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)

☞ **Importance:** Highlight nature's interconnectedness ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)

☞ **Implication:** Disrupting ecosystems impacts life. ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)

☞ **Recommendation:** Implement interactive nature sessions ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)

Suggested Answer:

163/A

Shahpur Jat

Delhi

June 20, 2024

The Editor

Times of India

New Delhi

Subject: Environmental education to foster sensitivity and respect for all life forms

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter to express my concern over the current approach to environmental education in our schools. I recently read an article in your magazine that highlights the lack of sensitivity and respect for other creatures and elements of nature. I wholeheartedly agree that the issue deserves immediate attention.

The focus of our current educational model lays stress on preserving nature for human use. This approach fails to instill the values of compassion and respect for animals and plants. As an educationist, I believe that the real essence of environmental studies should be to protect and respect all life forms for their intrinsic value, rather than their utility to human beings.

It is crucial to educate our youth about the interconnectedness of all elements in nature, including animals, plants, and even non-living elements. The removal of any one of these can disrupt the entire system, affecting not just human beings but the natural world as a whole. Schools should incorporate interactive sessions where students can engage directly with nature, fostering a deep-rooted understanding and respect for all life forms.

It is time we reoriented our educational practices to encourage not just ecological intelligence but also emotional intelligence concerning our environment. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to seeing changes that can revolutionize our approach to environmental education.

Yours sincerely

Avni

OR

(B)

Marking Scheme

20 Min

☞ Suggestion: More multi-level parking and shuttle service	(½ M)
☞ Importance: Parking shortage causes congestion and safety risks	(½ M)
☞ Implication: Poor parking hinders emergency vehicles	(½ M)
☞ Recommendation: Immediate action for a visitor-friendly area.	(½ M)

Suggested Answer:

25, Akbar Road

New Delhi

310032

June 20, 2024

The Police Commissioner

Traffic Police Department

New Delhi

Subject: Urgent need for improved parking facilities in Connaught Place area

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to bring your attention to the growing problem of inadequate parking facilities in the Connaught Place area. As a resident living close by at 25, Akbar Road, New Delhi, I frequently visit Connaught Place for shopping and dining, and each visit turns into a stressful experience due to the lack of proper parking spaces.

The area is bustling with visitors, especially on weekends, leading to a chaotic parking situation. Cars are often haphazardly parked along the road, causing traffic congestion and inconvenience to pedestrians. The few designated parking lots are always full, compelling people to park illegally.

The shortage of parking is not just an inconvenience but also poses safety risks. Double-parked cars or wrongly parked vehicles can hinder the movement of emergency vehicles, which is a serious concern.

I request you to take immediate steps to alleviate this issue. Increasing the number of multi-level parking facilities, stricter monitoring to prevent illegal parking, and perhaps a shuttle service to off-site parking lots could be potential solutions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I believe that prompt action from your end can significantly improve the current scenario and make Connaught Place a more visitor-friendly area.

Yours sincerely

Rashi

5.

CBSE Marking Scheme**Content (2M)*:**

Include 4 relevant and well-developed reasons to support your choice, each earning ½ mark.

Organisation of Ideas (2M):

Maintain a clear, logical flow in a single paragraph using connectors and a formal tone.

Accuracy (1M):

Ensure error-free writing with correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation throughout.

(A) Suggested Answer:**Marking Scheme**

15 Min

☞ Young adult author and award-winning poet	(½ M)
☞ Focus on emotional expression and self-confidence	(½ M)
☞ Specialises in creative writing and poetry	(½ M)
☞ Relates well to students and young writers	(½ M)

Option 1:

Ms. Neha Desai is the better choice. Ms. Desai's deep engagement with student writing and her experience as a poet and young adult author make her the ideal chief guest. Her focus on emotional expression and building students' confidence through storytelling is more suited to a school literary event. Her workshops are specifically designed for young learners, and her ability to relate to them will make her session meaningful and inspiring.

Marking Scheme

15 Min

☞ Veteran journalist with 20+ years of experience	(½ M)
☞ Engaging speaker on current events and media	(½ M)
☞ Helps students become responsible communicators	(½ M)
☞ Brings real-world relevance to the event	(½ M)

Option 2:

Mr. Vikram Roy is the better choice. Mr. Roy's experience as a journalist brings a fresh and critical angle to the Literary Fest. His sessions on media

literacy and current events will expand students' understanding of communication beyond creative writing. His engaging discussion style and emphasis on real-world awareness may spark interest in journalism and critical thinking, making him a unique and thought-provoking guest.

OR

(B) Suggested Answer:

Marking Scheme	15 Min
☞ Warm, empathetic, and cooperative ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)	
☞ Experienced in well-being discussions ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)	
☞ Provides emotional support to Kritika ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)	
☞ Creates a safe space for open sharing ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)	

Option 1:

Mehak would be the best partner for Kritika. Mehak's warm, empathetic nature and her experience with well-being discussions make her a strong complement to Kritika. Kritika's thoughtful input would blend well with Mehak's sensitive communication, creating a comfortable space for open conversation. Unlike Ayaan or Ritu, Mehak will allow Kritika to feel supported and confident on stage..

Marking Scheme	15 Min
☞ Friendly, cooperative and dynamic speaker ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)	
☞ Keeps audience engaged with energy ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)	
☞ May overshadow quieter speakers ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)	
☞ Needs coordination to avoid dominating ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)	

Option 2:

Ayaan would be the best partner for Kritika. Ayaan's confident speaking style can help balance Kritika's quiet nature, allowing their panel to maintain audience engagement. While he may occasionally dominate, with coordination, his energy and Kritika's depth can form a strong team. Mehak may be too passive, and Ritu might come across as too formal for the topic.

Marking Scheme	15 Min
☞ Clear, well-organised, and disciplined ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)	
☞ Guides discussions with structure and logic ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)	
☞ Sometimes too formal or rigid ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)	
☞ Adds professionalism to the panel ($\frac{1}{2}$ M)	

Option 3:

Ritu would be the best partner for Kritika. Ritu's clarity and structure could help guide the discussion, allowing Kritika's insights to come through effectively. Though she is more formal, this may provide the professionalism needed for a national panel. Ayaan may overshadow Kritika, while Mehak might not bring the same level of precision.

6. (A) (i) (b) Removed the lining of the box.
(ii) urgency [The word "whipped" conveys a quick and forceful action, indicating urgency rather than calm in the context of the extract.]
(iii) Mij was in a very bad condition, exhausted and blood spattered, which suggests that he had been injured.

Marking Scheme	3 Min
☞ Mij's suffering in captivity (1 M)	
☞ Ethical concerns on animal transport (1 M)	

The passage highlights how animals get hurt when imprisoned in boxes or cages as evidenced by Mij's poor condition when found in the box. It also raises questions about whether animals should be transported at all, especially if it involves putting them through stressful or harmful situations.



Mistakes 101 : What not to do!

Students might provide a vague or incomplete response to how the passage highlights issues related to animal welfare, lacking specific details or examples from the text.

OR

- (B) (i) (d) In Europe, tea was initially used as a beauty product.
(ii) He seems to find the legend hard to believe or thinks that it's an exaggeration.
(iii) Mockery [The word "scoffed" conveys a mocking or dismissive tone, suggesting that Pranjol wasn't taking the information seriously]

Marking Scheme	3 Min
☞ Pranjol's voice: emphasize disbelief (1 M)	
☞ Rajvir's voice: factual and informative tone (1 M)	

The actor should highlight the disbelief and doubt in Pranjal's voice when he says, "Tell me another!" and use a factual and informative tone in Rajvir's voice when he talks about the history of tea.

7. (A) (i) World
(ii) Ice symbolizes hatred, which can lead to destruction.
(iii) (a) The rhyme scheme is ABABA.

(iv)

Marking Scheme		 3 Min
☞ Ice, like fire, is a destructive force	(1 M)	
☞ Ice has the potential to end the world	(1 M)	

The speaker suggests that if the world had to come to an end on two separate occasions, they have enough knowledge and understanding of hate to believe that ice would also be a sufficient agent of destruction. The speaker acknowledges that ice is also capable of great destruction and believes it would be enough to cause the end of the world.

OR

- (B) (i) (a) Merry smiles.
(ii) A crocodile is distinguished by its weeping behaviour.
(iii) (c) Knowing the difference between several beasts of prey.

(iv)

Marking Scheme		 3 Min
☞ Vivid imagery enhances the reading experience	(1 M)	
☞ Adds humor and helps visualize scenarios	(1 M)	

The poem employs vivid imagery and descriptive language to enhance the reader's experience. This rich imagery not only adds to the humour and entertainment value of the poem but also allows readers to visualize and connect with the outrageous scenarios, making the reading experience more engaging and memorable.

8.

CBSE Marking Scheme	
Content (1 M)*	
Organisation (1 M)*	
Accuracy (1M): ½ mark to be deducted for Accuracy from the overall credit of a response, if error density is high -more than a total of 2 spellings and/or grammatical error	

(i)

Marking Scheme		 3 Min
Content (1 M)		
☞ Lencho's faith in God	(½ M)	
☞ Postmaster's human effort	(½ M)	
Organisation (1 M)		
☞ Contrast between faith and action	(½ M)	
☞ Clear and logical flow	(½ M)	

Lencho believes that God will provide for him and address his needs directly. The postmaster, although not God, tries to fulfill Lencho's expectation by collecting money for him. Lencho's view is spiritual and unyielding, while the postmaster's actions bring a human touch to divine expectations.

- (ii) Mandela's narrative stresses that freedom is not the result of the effort of a single individual but a collective struggle. He honors the sacrifices and dedication of countless others who stood against the oppressive system. This highlights the communal aspect of fighting for justice.

(iii)

Marking Scheme		 6 Min
Content (1 M)		
☞ Seagull's fear of flying	(½ M)	
☞ Growth after overcoming fear	(½ M)	
Organisation (1 M)		
☞ Clear journey from fear to freedom	(½ M)	
☞ Structured link between fear and growth	(½ M)	

The young seagull is initially afraid to fly and stays away from taking that first leap. When he finally does, he realizes flying is not as scary as he thought. His journey symbolizes the fears and hesitations one experiences when trying something new but also the freedom and growth that come from facing those challenges.

(iv)

Marking Scheme		 6 Min
Content (1 M)		
☞ Anne's maturity and humor	(½ M)	
☞ Impact on Mr. Keesing	(½ M)	
Organisation (1 M)		
☞ Link between traits and influence	(½ M)	
☞ Logical flow of content	(½ M)	

Anne Frank shows a mature understanding of human emotions. She was a warm and affectionate person who valued true friendship. She feels she can share her thoughts with her diary. With her clever and humouristic nature, she even made a strict teacher like Mr. Keesing softer in nature.

(v)

Marking Scheme		⌚ 6 Min
Content (1 M)		
☞ Highlights - Coorg, Assam, and Goa	(½ M)	
☞ Focus on India's diversity	(½ M)	
Organisation (1 M)		
☞ Clear structure linking regions	(½ M)	
☞ Celebrates India's richness	(½ M)	

“Glimpses of India” takes us through different regions: Coorg in the south, Tea from Assam in the northeast, and A Baker from Goa in the west. It highlights the cultural, geographical, and occupational diversity of India, celebrating its richness and variety.

9.

CBSE Marking Scheme	
Content (1 M)*	
Organisation (1 M)*	
Accuracy (1M): ½ mark to be deducted for Accuracy from the overall credit of a response, if error density is high -more than a total of 2 spellings and/or grammatical error	

(i)

Marking Scheme		⌚ 6 Min
Content (1 M)		
☞ Martians misinterpret Earth's literature	(½ M)	
☞ Literature saves Earth	(½ M)	
Organisation (1 M)		
☞ Clear misunderstanding by Martians	(½ M)	
☞ Link to literature's power	(½ M)	

The Martians misinterpret Earth's literature as highly advanced weapons manuals and scientific texts. This misunderstanding leads them to believe Earth is too advanced and dangerous to invade. Essentially, Earth's literature “saves” the planet, emphasizing the unforeseen power of words and stories.

(ii)

Marking Scheme		⌚ 6 Min
Content (1 M)		
☞ Bholi refuses a disrespectful marriage	(½ M)	
☞ Education empowers her decision	(½ M)	

Organisation (1 M)

- ☞ Clear progression of Bholi's transformation (½ M)
- ☞ Education linked to empowerment (½ M)

Bholi, initially considered the dumb and ugly girl, ends up challenging societal norms by refusing a marriage that doesn't respect her. This act of saying “no” changes the perception of her within her family and community. Her education empowers her to make this bold choice, highlighting its transformative power.

(iii)

Marking Scheme		⌚ 6 Min
Content (1 M)		
☞ Narrator advises on Tricki's care	(½ M)	
☞ Simple, effective treatment plan	(½ M)	
Organisation (1 M)		
☞ Clear depiction of narrator's approach	(½ M)	
☞ Connects actions to recovery	(½ M)	

The narrator, a veterinarian, is a very compassionate and honest person. He goes out of his way to tell Mrs. Pumphrey that she should start strictly controlling Tricki's diet and exercise schedule. He is tactful because he knows how to get Tricki to the hospital, and his sanity can be seen in the simple fact that he just changed Tricki's diet and exercise plan, which helped him recover from his problems. He didn't medicate him unnecessarily.

10. (A)

Marking Scheme		⌚ 12 Min
Content (3 M)		
☞ Valli's independence vs. self-worth in "For Anne Gregory"	(1 M)	
☞ Desire for freedom and self-discovery in both stories	(1 M)	
☞ Importance of inner value over appearances	(1 M)	
Expression (2 M)		
☞ Clear comparison of themes	(1 M)	
☞ Effective language use	(1 M)	
Accuracy (1 M)		
☞ Correct portrayal of themes and lessons	(1 M)	

Good morning, everyone. Today, I'd like to explore the themes of independence and self-realization as illustrated in “Madam Rides the Bus” and “For Anne Gregory.” Valli, an eight-year-old girl, takes a bold

step by riding the bus alone to experience freedom and satisfy her curiosity. On the other hand, “For Anne Gregory” teaches us that true worth comes from our inner self, not from external appearances. Both stories remind us that age and looks are not barriers when it comes to discovering ourselves. It’s the courage to take action and the wisdom to understand oneself that really counts. So, let’s not be bound by society’s norms and dare to take our own paths. Thank you.

OR

(B)

Marking Scheme		 12 Min
Content (3 M)		
☞ "The Ball Poem" teaches handling loss	(1 M)	
☞ "His First Flight"–seagull overcoming fear	(1 M)	
☞ Lesson: facing fears for growth	(1 M)	
Expression (2 M)		
☞ Clear comparison of overcoming fears	(1 M)	
☞ Motivational and effective conclusion	(1 M)	
Accuracy (1 M)		
☞ Accurate portrayal of themes	(1 M)	

Good morning, everyone. Today, I’d like to talk about “The Ball Poem” and “His First Flight,” that teach us valuable lessons about overcoming fears. In “The Ball Poem,” a young boy faces the fear of loss and learns to move on, signaling the difficult yet inevitable journey towards maturity. In “His First Flight,” a seagull overcomes his fear of flying, thanks to the encouragement and tough love from his mother. Both stories tell us that fears and obstacles are a part of life, but with courage and a good support system, we can conquer them. To conclude, I’d like to say that challenges make us stronger and help us grow, so face your fears and spread your wings. Thank you.

11. (A)

Marking Scheme		 12 Min
Content (3 M)		
☞ Anil aware but chose to trust the thief	(1 M)	
☞ Thief returns money, giving hope	(1 M)	
☞ Trust seen as transformative	(1 M)	
Expression (2 M)		
☞ Clear expression of feelings	(1 M)	
☞ Effective insight on trust	(1 M)	
Accuracy (1 M)		
☞ Accurate portrayal of Anil’s thoughts	(1 M)	

Dear Diary,

Today was a revealing day. The young thief I took in tried to rob me. But what he doesn’t know is that I was somewhat aware of his intentions from the start. So why did I let him stay? Because I believe that trust can transform people, it gives them a chance to rethink their actions. When he returned the money, I felt a strange mix of relief and hope. Hope that my trust was not misplaced and that he, maybe for the first time, experienced a sense of guilt and responsibility. This event reassures me that trusting people, even those deemed untrustworthy, has the power to change them for the better.

Anil

OR

(B)

Marking Scheme		 12 Min
Content (3 M)		
☞ Parents initially see Bholi as a burden	(1 M)	
☞ Bholi’s refusal changes their perception	(1 M)	
☞ Recognition of Bholi’s strength by her parents	(1 M)	
Expression (2 M)		
☞ Clear shift in parental views	(1 M)	
☞ Effective portrayal of transformation	(1 M)	
Accuracy (1 M)		
☞ Accurate portrayal of Bholi’s journey	(1 M)	

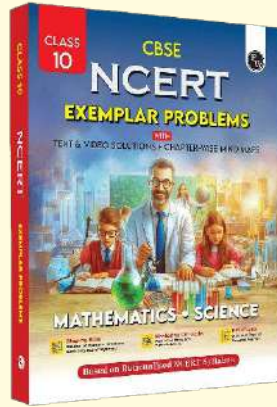
In the beginning, Bholi’s parents are not very hopeful for her future due to her speech defect and scars. They are more inclined to marry her off to an older man, disregarding her feelings. However, as the story progresses, their perception changes. Bholi’s brave refusal to marry the older man surprises them. It’s a wake-up call. They begin to realize the potential and courage in their daughter. By the end of the story, they no longer see her as a burden but as a strong individual capable of making her own decisions. This change in their viewpoint is subtle but significant, highlighting how parents can learn from their children too.

The Must-Have Books for Conquering **Board Exams**



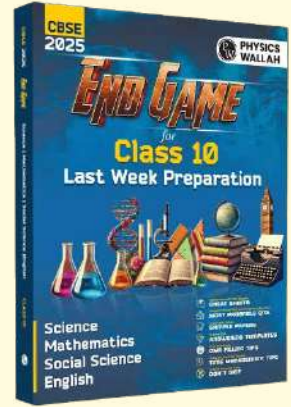
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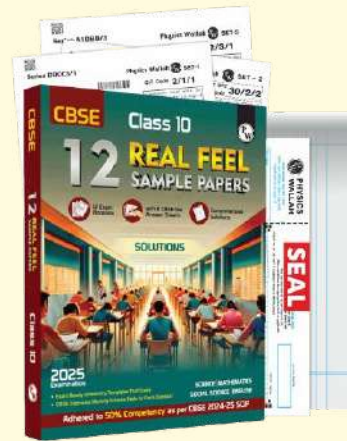
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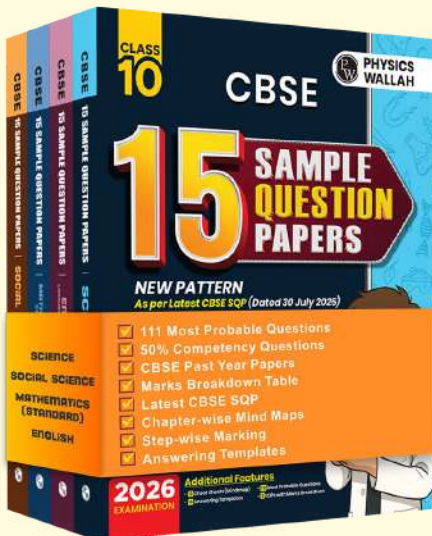
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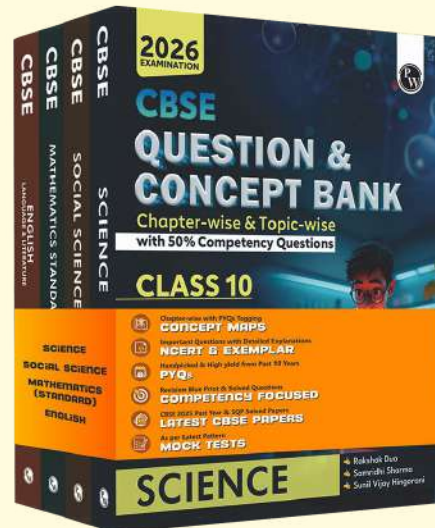
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